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# BEOWULF



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DRIFA (THRYTH) REPROACHED FOR HER EVIL DEEDS

*From MS Cotton Nero D I, fol 11 b*

"That is no way for a lady to behave (Ne bið swýðe cweðlic þeaw | idese tō efnanne  
Beowulf, ll 1940-1)

# BEOWULF

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF  
THE POEM WITH A DISCUSSION OF  
THE STORIES OF OFFA AND FINN

BY

R. W. CHAMBERS

SECOND EDITION

Dey mout er bin two deloojes. en den agin dey mountent  
UNCLE REMUS, *The Story of the Deluge*

CAMBRIDGE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
1932

*First Edition* 1921  
*Second Edition* 1932

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

TO  
PROF. WILLIAM WITHERLE LAWRENCE

DEAR PROF. LAWRENCE,

When, more than four years ago, I asked you to allow me to dedicate this volume to you, it was as a purely personal token of gratitude for the help I had received from what you have printed, and from what you have written to me privately

Since then much has happened the debt is greater, and no longer purely personal. We in this country can never forget what we owe to your people. And the self-denial which led them voluntarily to stunt themselves of food, that we in Europe might be fed, is one of many things about which it is not easy to speak. Our heart must indeed have been hardened if we had not considered the miracle of those loaves. But I fear that to refer to that great debt in the dedication to this little book may draw on me the ridicule incurred by the poor man who dedicated his book to the Universe.

Nevertheless, as a fellow of that College which has just received from an American donor the greatest benefaction for medical research which has ever been made in this country of ours, I may rejoice that the co-operation between our nations is being continued in that warfare against ignorance and disease which some day will become the only warfare waged among men.

Sceal hring-naca	ofer heafu bringan '
lāc ond luf-tācen.	Ic þā lēode wāt
ge wið frēond	ge wið frēond      fæste geworhte,
æghwæs untāle	ealde wisan.

R. W. C.



## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

I HAVE to thank various colleagues who have read proofs of this book, in whole or in part: first and foremost my old teacher, W. P. Ker; also Robert Priebisch, J. H. G. Grattan, Ernest Classen and two old students, Miss E. V. Hitchcock and Mrs Blackman. I have also to thank Prof. W. W. Lawrence of Columbia; and though there are details where we do not agree, I think there is no difference upon any important issues. If in these details I am in the right, this is largely due to the helpful criticism of Prof. Lawrence, which has often led me to reconsider my conclusions, and to re-state them more cautiously, and, I hope, more correctly. If, on the other hand, I am in the wrong, then it is thanks to Prof Lawrence that I am not still more in the wrong.

From Axel Olrik, though my debt to him is heavy, I find myself differing on several questions. I had hoped that what I had to urge on some of these might have convinced him, or, better still, might have drawn from him a reply which would have convinced me. But the death of that great scholar has put an end to many hopes, and deprived many of us of a warm personal friend. It would be impossible to modify now these passages expressing dissent, for the early pages of this book were printed off some years ago. I can only repeat that it is just because of my intense respect for the work of Dr Olrik that, where I cannot agree with his conclusions, I feel bound to go into the matter at length. Names like those of Olrik, Bradley, Chadwick and Sievers carry rightly such authority as to make it the duty of those who differ, if only on minor details, to justify that difference if they can.

From Dr Bradley especially I have had help in discussing various of these problems: also from Mr Wharton of the British Museum, Prof. Colln of Christiania, Mr Ritchie Girvan of Glasgow, and Mr Teddy. To Prof. Brøgger, the Norwegian state-antiquary, I am indebted for permission to reproduce photographs of the



Viking ships: to Prof. Finnur Jónsson for permission to quote from his most useful edition of the *Hrólfs Saga* and the *Bjarka Rímur*, and, above all, to Mr Sigfús Blondal, of the Royal Library of Copenhagen, for his labour in collating with the manuscript the passages quoted from the *Grettis Saga*.

Finally, I have to thank the Syndics of the University Press for undertaking the publication of the book, and the staff for the efficient way in which they have carried out the work, in spite of the long interruption caused by the war.

R. W. C.

*April 6, 1921*

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

I HAVE again to thank a large number of friends for help generously and willingly rendered.

I am peculiarly indebted to Docent Birger Nerman and Prof. Sune Lindqvist for sending me photographs of the discoveries made when Ottar's mound was opened. I have thus been able to supplement the short account of that important discovery, given in the first edition of this book.

As before, I have been indebted to the advice of Prof. W. W. Lawrence of Columbia, and of my colleague Mrs. Elsie Blackman, who have both read the additional sections in manuscript.

I have to thank Prof. Bruce Dickins for advice and help on many points—also Prof. Norman Baynes, and various friends who have called my attention to references and allusions which I might otherwise have overlooked. Prof. Knut Liestøl, Miss E. C. Batho, Dr. A. H. Smith, Miss Audrey M. Cambridge, and Mr. H. Gordon Ward. Miss W. Husbands has supplied an elaborate index, which will, I trust, make the book easier to use.

I have made no attempt to recast the section on Finnesburh. The work of Prof. Rudolf Imelmann, the elaborate study of Prof. R. A. Wilhams on the Finn episode, and the papers of Prof. Kemp Malone have all to be considered. I recognize also that very few critics agree with the tentative solution which I put forward, and that Prof. Malone, especially, has scored some palpable hits (see p. 506). Possibly some day I may return to the problem: the fact that I leave that section unaltered does not mean that I am satisfied with it, but that I do not see my way at present to any satisfactory solutions. As Mr. Bruce Dickins has put it

"In the Fragment, we have at least a shred of an original poem, in the Episode a mere abstract as obscure in its brevity as abstracts so often are, and who shall say that the versions represented by them agreed in more than general outline? How accurately could one reconstruct the Old Norse *Atlamál*, if nothing but stanzas 49–52, plus a brief abstract of the *Atlakvitha*, had survived?"

In the first edition, I marked in the bibliography those books which I had not seen by the sign ‡. I have to thank friends who have either sent me copies of these books, or told me where I could find them. As the plates are stereotyped, however, the sign ‡ remains in this edition. In the Addenda to the bibliography there are a number of items which I have had to take at second hand without seeing them. but I have not this time differentiated these by any mark. I trust that these omissions may be held to cancel out.

R. W. C.

*June, 1931.*

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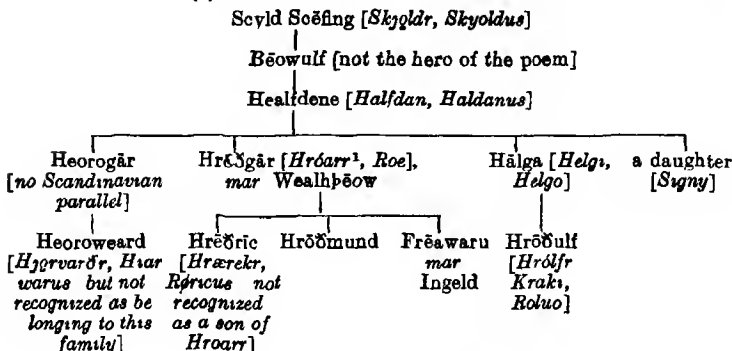
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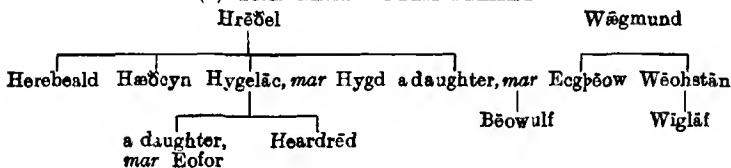
## GENEALOGICAL TABLES

The names of the corresponding characters in Scandinavian legend are added in *italics*, first the Icelandic forms, then the Latinized names as recorded by Saxo Grammaticus.

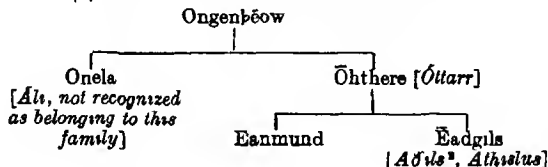
## (1) THE DANISH ROYAL FAMILY



## (2) THE GEAT ROYAL FAMILY



## (3) THE SWEDISH ROYAL FAMILY



<sup>1</sup> The exact equivalent to *Hrōðgār* is found in O.N., in the form *Hróðgeirr*. The form *Hróarr*, which is used of the famous Danish king, is due to a number of rather irregular changes, which can however be paralleled. The Primitive Germanic form of the name would have been \**Hrōþugaisaz* for the loss of the *g* at the beginning of the second element we may compare *Adils* with *Ēadgils* (Noreen, *Altisländische Grammatik*, 1903, § 223), for the loss of *ð* before *w* compare *Hrólfr* with *Hrōðwulf* (Noreen, § 222), for the absence of *R*-umlaut in the second syllable, combined with loss of the *g*, compare O.N. *nafarr* with O.E. *nafugār* (Noreen, § 69).

<sup>2</sup> Corresponding to O.N. *Adils* we should expect O.E. *Ēdḡils*, *Ēdḡisl*. The form *Ēadgils* may be due to confusion with the famous *Ēadgils*, king of the Myrgingas, who is mentioned in *Widsith*. The name comes only once in *Beowulf* (l. 2392) and may owe its form there to a corruption of the scribe. That the O.E. form is corrupt seems more likely than that the O.N. *Adils*, so well known and so frequently recorded, is a corruption of *Ēdḡils*.

# PART I

## CHAPTER I

### THE HISTORICAL ELEMENTS

#### SECTION I THE PROBLEM.

THE unique ms of *Beowulf* may be, and if possible should be, seen by the student in the British Museum. It is a good specimen of the elegant script of Anglo-Saxon times. "a book got up with some care," as if intended for the library of a nobleman or of a monastery. Yet this ms is removed from the date when the poem was composed and from the events which it narrates (so far as these events are historic at all) by periods of time approximately equal to those which separate us from the time when Shakespeare's *Henry V* was written, and when the battle of Agincourt was fought.

To try to penetrate the darkness of the five centuries which lie behind the extant ms by fitting together such fragments of illustrative information as can be obtained, and by using the imagination to bridge the gaps, has been the business of three generations of scholars distributed among the ten nations of Germanic speech. A whole library has been written around our poem, and the result is that this book cannot be as simple as either writer or reader might have wished.

The story which the ms tells us may be summarized thus. Beowulf, a prince of the Geatas, voyages to Heorot, the hall of Hrothgar, king of the Danes; there he destroys a monster Grendel, who for twelve years has haunted the hall by night and slain all he found therein. When Grendel's mother in revenge makes an attack on the hall, Beowulf seeks her out and kills her also in her home beneath the waters. He then

returns to his land with honour and is rewarded by his king Hygelac. Ultimately he himself becomes king of the Geatas, and fifty years later slays a dragon and is slain by it. The poem closes with an account of the funeral rites.

(Fantastic as these stories are, they are depicted against a background of what appears to be fact. Incidentally, and in a number of digressions, we receive much information about the Geatas, Swedes and Danes: all which information has an appearance of historic accuracy, and in some cases can be proved, from external evidence, to be historically accurate.)

## SECTION II THE GEATAS—THEIR KINGS AND THEIR WARS.

(Beowulf's people have been identified with many tribes: but there is strong evidence that the Geatas are the Gotar (ON *Gautar*), the inhabitants of what is now a portion of Southern Sweden, immediately to the south of the great lakes Wener and Wetter.) The names *Geatas* and *Gautar* correspond exactly<sup>1</sup>, according to the rules of OE and ON phonetic development, and all we can ascertain of the Geatas and of the *Gautar* harmonizes well with the identification<sup>2</sup>

We know of one occasion only when the Geatas came into violent contact with the world outside Scandinavia. Putting together the accounts which we receive from Gregory of Tours and from two other (anonymous) writers, we learn that a piratical raid was made upon the country of the Atuaru (the OE *Hetware*) who dwelt between the lower Rhine and what is now the Zuyder Zee, by a king whose name is spelt in a variety of ways, all of which readily admit of identification with that of the Hygelac of our poem<sup>3</sup>. From the land of the Atuaru this king carried much spoil to his ships, but, remaining on shore, he was overwhelmed and slain by the army which the

<sup>1</sup> It must be remembered that the sound changes of the Germanic dialects have been worked out so minutely that it is nearly always possible to decide quite definitely whether two names do or do not exactly correspond. Only occasionally is dispute possible (e.g. whether *Hrothgar* is or is not phonetically the exact equivalent of *Hroarr*).

<sup>2</sup> See below, pp 8-10

<sup>3</sup> *Chochilaucus*, which appears to be the correct form, corresponds to *Hygelac* (in the primitive form *Huglaskaz*) as *Chlodowechus* to *Hlodowicus*.

Frankish king Theodoric had sent under his son to the rescue of these outlying provinces; the plunderers' fleet was routed and the booty restored to the country. The bones of this gigantic king of the "Getae" [presumably = Geatas] were long preserved, it was said, on an island near the mouth of the Rhine.)

Such is the story of the raid, so far as we can reconstruct it from monkish Latin sources. The precise date is not given, but it was after 515, probably after 520, but before 530.

(Now this disastrous raid of Hygelac is referred to constantly in *Beowulf* and the mention there of Hetware, Franks and the Merovingian king as the foes confirms an identification which would be satisfactory even without these additional data<sup>1</sup>.

Our authorities are:

(1) Gregory of Tours (d. 594):

*His ita gestis, Dani cum rege suo nomine Chlochilaico evectu navale per mare Gallias appetunt. Egressique ad terras, pagum unum de regno Theudorici devastant atque captivant, oneratisque navibus tam de captivis quam de reliquis spoliis, reverti ad patriam cupiunt, sed rex eorum in litus resēdebat donec naves alto mare conprehenderent, ipse deinceps secuturus. Quod cum Theudorico nuntiatum fuisset, quod scilicet regio ejus fuerit ab extraneis devastata, Theudobertum, filium suum, in illis partibus cum valido exercitu et magno armorum apparatu direxit. Qui, interfecto rege, hostibus navali proelio superatis opprimit, omnemque rapinam terrae restituit.*

The name of the vanquished king is spelt in a variety of ways: Chlochilaichum, Chrochilaicho, Chlodilaichum, Hrodolaicum.

See Gregori episcopi Turonensis *Historia Francorum*, p. 110, in *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* (*Scriptores rerum merovingicarum*, I).

(2) The *Libri Historiae Francorum* (commonly called the *Gesta Francorum*)

*In illo tempore Dani cum rege suo nomine Chochilaico cum navale hoste per alto mare Gallias appetent, Theudericus paggo [i.e. pagum] Attoarios vel alios devastantes atque captivantes plenas naves de captivis alto mare intrantes rex eorum ad litus maris resedens. Quod cum Theudericus nuntiatus fuisset, Theudobertum filium suum cum magno exercitu in illis partibus dirigens. Qui consequens eos, pugnavit cum eis caede magna atque prostravit, regem eorum interfecit, preda tulit, et in terra sua restituit.*

The *Libri Historiae Francorum* was written in 727, but although so much later than Gregory, it preserves features which are wanting in the earlier historian, such as the mention of the Hetware (*Attoarii*). Note too that the name of the invading king is given in a form which

<sup>1</sup> The passages in *Beowulf* referring to this expedition are:

1202 *etc.* Frisians (adjoining the Hetware) and Franks mentioned as the foes.

2354 *etc.* Hetware mentioned.

2501 *etc.* Hugas (= Franks) and the Frisian king mentioned.

2914 *etc.* Franks, Frisians, Hugas, Hetware and "the Merovingian" mentioned.

approximates more closely to *Hygelac* than that of any of the MSS of Gregory. variants are *Chrochilaico*, *Chohilaico*, *Chochilago*, etc

See *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* (*Scriptores rerum merovingicarum*, II, 274).

(3) An anonymous work *On monsters and strange beasts*, appended to two MSS of Phaedrus

*Et sunt [monstra] mirae magnitudinis ut rex Hunglaucus qui imperavit Getis et a Francis occisus est Quem equus a duodecimo anno portare non potuit Cujus ossa in Rheni fluminis insula, ubi in Oceanum prorumpit, reservata sunt ei de longinquo venientibus pro miraculo ostenduntur.*

This treatise was first printed (from a MS of the tenth century, in private possession) by J. Berger de Xivrey (*Traditions tétalogiques*, Paris, 1836, p. 12).<sup>1</sup> It was again published from a second MS at Wolfenbüttel by Haupt (see his *Opuscula* II, 223, 1876). This MS is in some respects less accurate, reading *Hunglacus* for *Hunglaucus*, and *gentes* for *Getis*. The treatise is assigned by Berger de Xivrey to the sixth century, on grounds which are hardly conclusive (p. xxxiv). Haupt would date it not later than the eighth century (II, 220).

The importance of this reference lies in its describing *Hygelac* as king of the *Getae*, and in its fixing the spot where his bones were preserved as near the mouth of the Rhine<sup>1</sup>

But if *Beowulf* is supported in this matter by what is almost contemporary evidence (for Gregory of Tours was born only some twenty years after the raid he narrates) we shall probably be right in arguing that the other stories from the history of the Geatas, their Danish friends, and their Swedish foes, told with what seems to be such historic sincerity in the different digressions of our poem, are equally based on fact ('True, we have no evidence outside *Beowulf* for *Hygelac*'s father, king *Hrethel*, nor for *Hygelac*'s elder brothers, *Herebeald* and *Hæthcyn*, and very little for *Hæthcyn*'s deadly foe, the Swedish king *Ongentheow*<sup>2</sup>.)

And in the last case, at any rate, such evidence might

<sup>1</sup> The identification of *Chochilaicus* with *Hygelac* is the most important discovery ever made in the study of *Beowulf*, and the foundation of our belief in the historic character of its episodes. It is sometimes attributed to Grundtvig, sometimes to Outzen. It was first vaguely suggested by Grundtvig (*Nyeste Skildere af Kjöbenhavn*, 1816, col. 1030) the importance of the identification was worked out by him fully, two years later (*Danne-Virke*, II, 285). In the meantime the passage from Gregory had been quoted by Outzen in his review of Thorkelm's *Beowulf* (*Kieler Blätter*, III, 312). Outzen's reference was obviously made independently, but he failed to detect the real bearing of the passage upon *Beowulf*. Credit for the find accordingly belongs solely to Grundtvig.

<sup>2</sup> *Ongentheow* is mentioned in *Widsith* (l. 31) as a famous king of the Swedes. Many of the kings mentioned in the same list can be proved to be historical, and the reference in *Widsith* therefore supports *Ongentheow*'s historic character, but is far, in itself, from proving it.

fairly have been expected. For there are extant a very early Norse poem, the *Ynglinga tal*, and a much later prose account, the *Ynglinga saga*, enumerating the kings of Sweden. The *Ynglinga tal* traces back these kings of Sweden for some thirty reigns. Therefore, though it was not composed till some four centuries after the date to which we must assign Ongenþeow, it should deal with events even earlier than the reign of that king for, unless the rate of mortality among early Swedish kings was abnormally high, thirty reigns should occupy a period of more than 400 years. Nothing is, however, told us in the *Ynglinga tal* concerning the deeds of any king Angantyr—which is the name we might expect to correspond to Ongenþeow<sup>1</sup>

But on the other hand, the son and grandson of Ongenþeow, as recorded in *Beowulf*, do meet us both in the *Ynglinga tal* and in the *Ynglinga saga*

According to *Beowulf*, Ongenþeow had two sons, Onela and Ohthere. Onela became king of Sweden and is spoken of in terms of highest praise<sup>2</sup>. Yet to judge from the account given in *Beowulf*, the Geatas had little reason to love him. He had followed up the defeat of Hygelac by dealing their nation a second deadly blow. For Onela's nephews, Eadgils and Eanmund (the sons of Ohthere), had rebelled against him, and had taken refuge at the court of the Geatas, where Heardred, son of Hygelac, was now reigning, supported by Beowulf. Thither Onela pursued them, and slew the young king Heardred. Eanmund also was slain<sup>3</sup>, then or later, but Eadgils escaped.

It is not clear from the poem what part Beowulf is supposed to have taken in this struggle, or why he failed to ward off disaster from his lord and his country. It is not even made clear whether or no he had to make formal submission to the hated Swede but we are told that when Onela withdrew he succeeded to the vacant throne. In later days he took his revenge upon Onela. "He became a friend to Eadgils in his distress, he supported the son of Ohthere across the broad water with men, with warriors and arms he wreaked his

<sup>1</sup> Strictly *Anganþér*. See Heusler, *Heldennamen in mehrfacher Lautgestalt* *Z f.d.A.* LXX, 101.

<sup>2</sup> II. 2382-4

<sup>3</sup> II. 2612-9

vengeance in a chill journey fraught with woe: he deprived the king [Onela] of his life ”

This story bears in its general outline every impression of true history. the struggle for the throne between the nephew and the uncle, the support given to the unsuccessful candidate by a rival state, these are events which recur frequently in the wild history of the Germanic tribes during the dark ages, following inevitably from the looseness of the law of succession to the throne

Now the *Ynglinga tal* contains allusions to these events, and the *Ynglinga saga* a brief account of them, though dim and distorted<sup>1</sup>. We are told how Athils (= Eadgils) king of Sweden, son of Ottar (= Ohthere), made war upon Ali (= Onela) By the time the *Ynglinga tal* was written it had been forgotten that Ali was Athils' uncle, and that the war was a civil war But the issue, as reported in the *Ynglinga tal* and *Ynglinga saga*, is the same as in *Beowulf* ”

“King Athils had great quarrels with the king called Ali of Uppland, he was from Norway They had a battle on the ice of Lake Wener; there King Ali fell, and Athils had the victory Concerning this battle there is much said in the *Skjoldunga saga* ”

From the *Ynglinga saga* we learn more concerning King Athils not always to his credit. He was, as the Swedes had been from of old, a great horse-breeder Authorities differed as to whether horses or drink were the death of him<sup>2</sup> According to one account he brought on his end by celebrating, with immoderate drinking, the death of his enemy Rolf (the *Hrothulf* of *Beowulf*) According to another

“King Athils was at a sacrifice of the goddesses, and rode his horse through the hall of the goddesses the horse tripped under him and fell and threw the king, and his head smote a stone so that the skull broke and the brains lay on the stones, and that was his death. He died at Uppsala, and there was laid in mound, and the Swedes called him a mighty king ”

<sup>1</sup> Whether it be accuracy or accident, these names Ottar and Athils come just at that place in the list of the *Ynglinga tal* which, when we reckon back the generations, we find to correspond to the beginning of the sixth century And this is the date when we know from *Beowulf* that they should have been reigning

<sup>2</sup> But the accounts are quite inconsistent Saxo (ed. Holder, pp 56-7) implies a version in which Athils was deposed, if not slain, by Bothvar Bjarki, which is quite at variance with other information given by Saxo

There has therefore never been reason to doubt the existence of the king of Sweden known in *Beowulf* as Eadgils. Swedish philologists and antiquaries have identified beyond reasonable doubt his grave mound, and those of his father, grandfather and great grandfather. These investigations led to one of the most instructive and romantic of modern discoveries.

*The Swedish Kings*

The account in the *Ynglinga saga* of the fight between Onela and Eadgils is as follows

*Adils konungr átti deilur miklar við konung þann, er Ali hét inn upplenzki hann var ór Nóregi þeir áttu orrostu á Vænis ísi, þar féll Ali konungr en Adils hafði sigr, frá þessari orrostu er langt sagt í Skjoldunga sǫgu (Ynglinga saga in Heimskringla, ed Jónsson, Kjöbenhavn, 1893, I, 56)*

The *Skjoldunga saga* here mentioned is an account of the kings of Denmark. It is preserved only in a Latin abstract

*Post hæc oris inter Adilsum illum Svecræ regem et Alonem Opplandorum regem in Norvegia, inimicitias, praelum utrinque indicitur loco pugnae statuto in stagno Waener, glacie jary obducto Ad illud igitur se viribus inferiorem agnoscens Rolphonis privigni sui opem implorat, hoc proposito præmio, ut ipse Rolpho tres præciosissimas res quascunque optaret ex universo regno Sveciæ præmii loco auferret duodecim autem pugilum ipsius quilibet 3 libras auri puri, quilibet reliquorum bellatorum tres marcas argenti defecati Rolpho domi ipse reses pugilos suos duodecim Adilso in subsidium mittit, quorum etiam opera is alioqui vincendus, victoriam obtinuit Illi sibi et regi propositum præmium exposcunt, negat Adilsus, Rolphonis absenti ullum deberi præmium, quare et Dani pugiles sibi oblatum respuebant, cum regem suum eo frustrari intelligerent, reversique rem, ut gesta est, exponunt (See Skjoldungasaga: Arngrim Jónssons Udtog, udgivet af Axel Olrik, Kjöbenhavn, 1894, p. 34 [116])*

There is also a reference to this battle on the ice in the *Kálfvísu*, a mnemonic list of famous heroes and their horses. It is noteworthy that in this list mention is made of Vestein, who is perhaps the Wihstan of our poem, and of Biar, who has been thought (very doubtfully) to correspond to the OE Beaw

*Dagr reið Drögle en Dvalenn Móþne...  
Ále Hrafne es til íss ríþo,  
enn annarr austr und Áþlæ  
grár hvarfæþe geire undaþr.  
Byrn reið Blakke en Biarr Kerte,  
Álle Glaume en Áþils Slungne.*

*Lieder der Edda*, ed Symons and Gering, I, 221-2

"Ale was on Hrafn when they rode to the ice but another horse, a grey one, with Athuls on his back, fell eastward, wounded by the spear." This, as Olrik points out, appears to refer to a version of the story in which Athils had his fall from his horse, not at a ceremony at Uppsala, but after the battle with Ali (*Helledigtning*, I, 203-4)

<sup>1</sup> See below, p. 344, pp. 356-7, and particularly the section, in Appendix II, on *Beowulf* as a source of early Northern History.



For various theories as to the early history of the Swedish royal house, as recorded in *Beowulf*, see Weyhe, *König Ongensheows Fall*, in *Engl Stud* xxxix, 14–39. Schuck, *Studier i Ynglingatal* (1905–7): Stjerna, *Vendel och Vendelkråka*, in *A. f. n. F.* xxi, 71, etc

### The Geatas.

The identification of Geatas and Gotar has been accepted by the great majority of scholars, although Kemble wished to locate the Geatas in Schleswig, Grundtvig in Gotland, and Haigh in England. Leo was the first to suggest the Jutes but the "Jute-hypothesis" owes its currency to the arguments of Fahlbeck (*Beovulfssquædet såsom källa för nordisk fornhistoria* in the *Antiquarisk Tidskrift för Sverige*, viii, 2, 1). Fahlbeck's very inconclusive reasons were contested at the time by Sarrazin (23 etc) and ten Brink (194 etc) and the arguments against them have lately been marshalled by H. Schuck (*Folknamnet Geatas i den fornengelska dikten Beowulf*, Upsala, 1907). It is indeed difficult to understand how Fahlbeck's theory came to receive the support it has had from several scholars (e.g. Bugge, *P. B. B.* xii, 1 etc, Weyhe, *Engl Stud* xxxix, 38 etc, Gering). For his conclusions do not arise naturally from the O. E. data: his whole argument is a piece of learned pleading, undertaken to support his rather revolutionary speculations as to early Swedish history. These speculations would have been rendered less probable had the natural interpretation of Geatas as Gotar been accepted. The Jute-hypothesis has recently been revived, with the greatest skill and learning, by Gudmund Schutte (*Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, xi, 574 etc). But here again I cannot help suspecting that the wish is father to the thought, and that the fact that that eminent scholar is a Dane living in Jutland, has something to do with his attempt to locate the Geatas there. No amount of learning will eradicate patriotism.

The following considerations need to be weighed.

(1) *Geatas* etymologically corresponds exactly with O. N. *Gotar*, the modern Gotar. The O. E. word corresponding to Jutes (the Iutae of Bede) should be, not *Geatas*, but in the Anglian dialect *Eote*, *Iote*, in the West Saxon *Iete*, *Yte*.

Now it is true that in one passage in the O. E. translation of Bede (i, 15) the word "Iutarum" is rendered *Geata* but in the other (iv, 16) "Iutorum" is rendered *Eota*, *Ytena*. And this latter rendering is supported (a) by the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (*Iotum*, *Iutna*) and (b) by the fact that the current O. E. word for Jutes was *Yte*, *Ytan*, which survived till after the Norman conquest. For the name *Ytena land* was used for that portion of Hampshire which had been settled by the Jutes. William Rufus was slain, according to Florence of Worcester, in *Ytene* (which Florence explains as *provincia Jutarum*).

From the purely etymological point of view the Gotar-hypothesis, then, is unimpeachable but the Jute-hypothesis is unsatisfactory, since it is based upon one passage in the O. E. Bede, where *Jutarum* is incorrectly rendered *Geata*, whilst it is invalidated by the other passage in the O. E. Bede, by the *Chronicle* and by Florence of Worcester, where *Jutorum* is correctly translated by *Ytena*, or its Anglian or Kentish equivalent *Eota*, *Iotna*.

(2) It is obvious that the Geatas of *Beowulf* were a strong and independent power—a match for the Swedes. Now we learn from Procopius that in the sixth century the Gotar were an independent

and numerous nation. But we have no equal evidence for any similar preponderant Jutish power in the sixth century. The *Jutae* are indeed a rather puzzling tribe, and scholars have not even been able to agree where they dwelt.

The Gotar on the other hand are located among the great nations of Scandinavia both by Ptolemy (*Geog* II, 11, 16) in the second century and by Procopius (*Bell Goti* II, 15) in the sixth. When we next get clear information (through the Christian missionaries) both Gótar and Swedes have been united under one king. But the Gotar retained their separate laws, traditions, and right of confirmation of the king, and they were constantly asserting themselves during the Middle Ages. The title of the king of Sweden, *rex Sueorum Gothorumque*, commemorates the old distinction.

From the historical point of view, then, the Gotar comply with what we are told in *Beowulf* of the power of the Geatas much better than do the Jutes.

(3) Advocates of the Jute-hypothesis have claimed much support from the geographical argument that the Swedes and Geatas fight *ofer sæ* (e.g. when Beowulf and Eadgils attack Onela, 2394). But the term *sæ* is just as appropriate to the great lakes Wener and Wetter, which separated the Swedes from the Gotar, as it is to the Cattegatt. And we have the evidence of Scandinavian sources that the battle between Eadgils and Onela actually *did* take place on the ice of lake Wener (see above, p. 6). Moreover the absence of any mention of ships in the fighting narrated in ll. 2922-2945 would be remarkable if the contending nations were Jutes and Swedes, but suits Gotar and Swedes admirably since they could attack each other by land as well as by water.

(4) There is reason to think that the old land of the Gotar included a great deal of what is now the south-west coast of Sweden.<sup>1</sup> Hygelac's capital was probably not far from the modern Göteborg. The descriptions in *Beowulf* would suit the cliffs of southern Sweden well, but they are quite inapplicable to the sandy dunes of Jutland.

Little weight can, however, be attached to this last argument, as the cliffs of the land of the Geatas are in any case probably drawn from the poet's imagination.

(5) If we accept the identification Beowulf = Bjarki (see below, pp. 60-1) a further argument for the equation of Geatas and Gotar will be found in the fact that Bjarki travels to Denmark from Gautland just as Beowulf from the land of the Geatas, Bjarki is the brother of the king of the Gautar, Beowulf the nephew of the king of the Geatas.

(6) No argument as to the meaning of *Geatas* can be drawn from the fact that Gregory calls Chlochlaiacus (Hygelac) a Dane. For it is clear from *Beowulf* that, whatever else they may have been, the Geatas were not Danes. Either, then, Gregory must be misinformed, or he must be using the word *Dane* vaguely, to cover any kind of Scandinavian pirate.

(7) Probably what has weighed most heavily (often perhaps not consciously) in gaining converts to the "Jute-hypothesis" has been the conviction that "in ancient times each nation celebrated in song its own heroes alone." Hence one set of scholars, accepting the identification of the Geatas with the Scandinavian Gotar, have argued that *Beowulf* is therefore simply a translation from a Scandinavian Gótar original. Others, accepting *Beowulf* as an English poem, have

<sup>1</sup> See Schuck, *Folknamnet Geatas*, 22 etc.

argued that the Geatas who are celebrated in it must therefore be one of the tribes that settled in England, and have therefore favoured the "Jute theory" But the *a priori* assumption that each Germanic tribe celebrated in song its own national heroes only is demonstrably incorrect<sup>1</sup>.

But in none of the accounts of the warfare of these Scandinavian kings, whether written in Norse or monkish Latin, is there mention of any name corresponding to that of Beowulf, as king of the Geatas Whether he is as historic as the other kings with whom in our poem he is brought into contact, we cannot say.

It has been generally held that the Beowulf of our poem is compounded out of two elements. that an historic Beowulf, king of the Geatas, has been combined with a mythological figure Beowa<sup>2</sup>, a god of the ancient Angles that the historical achievements against Frisians and Swedes belong to the king, the mythological adventures with giants and dragons to the god. But there is no conclusive evidence for either of these presumed component parts of our hero.<sup>3</sup> To the god Beowa we shall have to return later here it is enough to note that the current assumption that there *was* a king Beowulf of the Geatas lacks confirmation from Scandinavian sources

And one piece of evidence there is, which tends to show that Beowulf is not an historic king at all, but that his adventures have been violently inserted amid the historic names of the kings of the Geatas Members of the families in *Beowulf* which we have reason to think historic bear names which alliterate the one with the other. The inference seems to be that it was customary, when a Scandinavian prince was named in the Sixth Century, to give him a name which had an initial letter similar to that of his father care was thus taken that metrical difficulties should not prevent the names of father and son being linked together in song<sup>3</sup> In the case of Beowulf himself, however, this rule breaks down. Beowulf seems an intruder

<sup>1</sup> See below, p 98 and Appendix (E), The "Jute Question"

<sup>2</sup> See below, pp 45 etc

<sup>3</sup> Olrik (*Helteogtning*, 1, 22 etc) The Danish house—Healfdene, Heorogar, Hrothgar, Halga, Heorowearð, Hrethric, Hrothmund, Hrothulf the Swedish—Ongentheow, Onela, Ohthere, Eanmund, Eadgils. the Geatic—Hrethel, Herebeald, Hæthcyn, Hygelac, Heardred. The same principle is strongly marked in the Old English pedigrees.

into the house of Hrethel. It may be answered that since he was only the offspring of a daughter of that house, and since that daughter had three brothers, there would have been no prospect of his becoming king, when he was named. But neither does his name fit in with that of the other great house with which he is supposed to be connected. Wiglaf, son of Wihstan of the Wægmundingas, was named according to the familiar rules. but Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, seems an intruder in that family as well.)

This failure to fall in with the alliterative scheme, and the absence of confirmation from external evidence, are, (of course, not in themselves enough to prove that the reign of Beowulf over the Geatas is a poetic figment. And indeed our poem may quite possibly be true to historic fact in representing him as the last of the great kings of the Geatas, after whose death his people have nothing but national disaster to expect<sup>1</sup>. It would be strange) that this last and most mighty and magnanimous of the kings of the Geatas should have been forgotten in Scandinavian lands. That outside *Beowulf* nothing should be known of his reign. But when we consider how little, outside *Beowulf*, we know of the Geatic kingdom at all, we cannot pronounce such oblivion impossible.

What tells much more against Beowulf as a historic Geatic king is that there is always apt to be something extravagant and unreal about what the poem tells us of his deeds, contrasting with the sober and historic way in which other kings, like Hrothgar or Hygelac or Eadgils, are referred to. True, we must not disqualify Beowulf forthwith because he slew a dragon<sup>2</sup>. Several unimpeachably historical persons have done this so that an authority as the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* assures us that fiery dragons were flying in Northumbria as late as A.D.

<sup>1</sup> ll 3018

<sup>2</sup> As is done by Schück (*Studier i Beowulf-sagan*, 27)

<sup>3</sup> "Dragon" is more frequent, not less frequent, the nearer we come to historic times. See *Hæledigting*, i, 313. The dragon survived much later in Europe than has been generally recognized. He was flying from Mount Pilatus in 1749 (See J. J. Scheuchzer, *Itinera per Helvetiæ Alpinae regiones*, 1723, iii, p. 385). The same authority quotes accounts of dragons authenticated by priests, his own contemporaries, and supplies many bloodcurdling engravings of the same.

(But (and this is the serious difficulty) even when Beowulf is depicted in quite historic circumstances, there is still something unsubstantial about his actions. When, in the midst of the strictly historical account of Hygelac's overthrow, we are told that Beowulf swam home bearing thirty suits of armour, this is as fantastic as the account of his swimming home from Grendel's lair with Grendel's head and the magic swordhilt. We may well doubt whether there is any more kernel of historic fact in the one feat than in the other<sup>1</sup>. Again, we are told how Beowulf defended the young prince Heardred, Hygelac's son. Where was he, then, when Heardred was defeated and slain? To protect and if necessary avenge his lord upon the battlefield was the essential duty of the Germanic retainer. Yet Beowulf has no part to play in the episode of the death of Heardred. He is simply ignored till it is over. True, we are told that in later days he *did* take vengeance, by supporting the claims of Eadgils, the pretender, against Onela, the slayer of Heardred. But here again difficulties meet us: for the Scandinavian authorities, whilst they agree that Eadgils overthrew Onela by the use of foreign auxiliaries, represent these auxiliaries as Danish retainers, dispatched by the Danish king Hrothulf. The chief of these Danish retainers is Bothvar Bjarki, who, as we shall see later, has been thought to stand in some relation to Beowulf. But Bothvar is never regarded as king of the Geatas: and the fact remains that *Beowulf* is at variance with our other authorities in representing Eadgils as having been placed on the throne by a Geatic rather than by a Danish force. Yet this Geatic expedition against Onela is, with the exception of the dragon episode, the only event which our poem has to narrate concerning Beowulf's long reign of fifty years. (And in other respects the reign is shadowy. Beowulf, we are told, came to the throne at a time of utter national distress, he had a long and prosperous reign, and became so powerful that he was able to dethrone the mighty<sup>2</sup> Swedish king Onela, and place in his stead the miserable fugitive<sup>3</sup> Eadgils. Yet, after this half century of success, the

<sup>1</sup> Cf. on this point Klaeber in *Angla*, xxxvi (1912) p. 190.

<sup>2</sup> l. 2382

<sup>3</sup> l. 2393

kingdom is depicted upon Beowulf's death as being in the same tottering condition in which it stood at the time when he is represented as having come to the throne, after the fall of Heardred

The destruction one after the other of the descendants of Hrethel sounds historic: at any rate it possesses verisimilitude. But the picture of the childless Beowulf, dying, after a glorious reign, in extreme old age, having apparently made no previous arrangements for the succession, so that Wiglaf, a youth hitherto quite untried in war, steps at once into the place of command on account of his valour in slaying the dragon—this is a picture which lacks all historic probability.

"I cannot avoid a suspicion that the fifty years' reign of Beowulf over the Geatas may quite conceivably be a poetic fiction<sup>1</sup>, that the downfall of the Geatic kingdom and its absorption in Sweden were very possibly brought about by the destruction of Hygelac and all his warriors at the mouth of the Rhine)

Such an event would have given the Swedes their opportunity for vengeance: they may have swooped down, destroyed Heardred, and utterly crushed the independent kingdom of the Geatas before the younger generation had time to grow up into fighting men.

To the fabulous achievements of Beowulf, his fight with Grendel, Grendel's dam, and the dragon, it will be necessary to return later. As to his other feats, all we can say is that the common assumption that they rest upon an historic foundation does not seem to be capable of proof. But that they have an historic background is indisputable.)

### SECTION III HEOROT AND THE DANISH KINGS

(Of the Danish kings mentioned in *Beowulf*, we have first Scyld Scefing, the foundling, an ancient and probably a mythical figure, then Beowulf, son of Scyld, who seems an intruder among the Danish kings, since the Danish records know nothing

<sup>1</sup> Of course, even if Beowulf's reign over the Geatas is not historic, this does not exclude the possibility of his having some historic foundation.

of him, and since his name does not alliterate with those of either his reputed father or his reputed son. Then comes the "high" Healfdene, to whom four children were born. Heorogar, Hrothgar, Halga "the good," and a daughter who was wedded to the Swedish king. Since Hrothgar is represented as an elder contemporary of Hygelac, we must date<sup>1</sup> Healfdene and his sons, should they be historic characters, between A.D. 430 and 520.)

Now it is noteworthy that just after A.D. 500 the Danes first become widely known, and the name "Danes" first meets us in Latin and Greek authors. And this cannot be explained on the ground that the North has become more familiar to dwellers in the classical lands; on the contrary far less is known concerning the geography of the North Sea and the Baltic than had been the case four or five centuries before. Tacitus and Ptolemy knew of many tribes inhabiting what is now Denmark, but not of the Danes; the writers in Ravenna and Constantinople in the sixth century, though much less well informed on the geography of the North, know of the Danes as amongst the most powerful nations there. *Beowulf* is, then, supported by the Latin and Greek records when it depicts these rulers of Denmark as a house of mighty kings, the fame of whose realm spread far and wide. We cannot tell to what extent this realm was made by the driving forth of alien nations from Denmark, to what extent by the coming together (under the common name of Danes) of many tribes which had hitherto been known by other distinct names.

The pedigree of the house of Healfdene can be constructed from the references in *Beowulf*. Healfdene's three sons, Heorogar, Hrothgar, Halga, are presumably enumerated in order of age, since Hrothgar mentions Heorogar, but not Halga, as his senior<sup>2</sup>. Heorogar left a son Heoroweard<sup>3</sup>, but it is in accordance with Teutonic custom that Hrothgar should have succeeded to the throne if, as we may well suppose, Heoroweard was too young to be trusted with the kingship.

<sup>1</sup> Attempts at working out the chronology of *Beowulf* have been made by Gering (in his translation) and by Heusler (*Archiv*, cxxiv, 9-14). On the whole the chronology of *Beowulf* is self-consistent, but there are one or two discrepancies which do not admit of solution.

<sup>2</sup> l. 468

<sup>3</sup> l. 2161

The younger brother Halga is never mentioned during Beowulf's visit to Heorot, and the presumption is that he is already dead

The Hrothulf who, both in *Beowulf* and *Widsuth*, is linked with King Hrothgar, almost as his equal, is clearly the son of Halga. for he is Hrothgar's nephew<sup>1</sup>, and yet he is not the son of Heorogar<sup>2</sup>. The mention of how Hrothgar shielded this Hrothulf when he was a child confirms us in the belief that his father Halga had died early. Yet, though he thus belongs to the youngest branch of the family, Hrothulf is clearly older than Hrethric and Hrothmund, the two sons of Hrothgar, whose youth, in spite of the age of their father, is striking. The seat of honour occupied by Hrothulf<sup>3</sup> is contrasted with the undistinguished place of his two young cousins, sitting among the *gogoth*<sup>4</sup>. Nevertheless Hrothgar and his wife expect their son, not their nephew, to succeed to the throne<sup>5</sup>. Very small acquaintance with the history of royal houses in these lawless Teutonic times is enough to show us that trouble is likely to be in store

So much can be made out from the English sources, *Beowulf* and *Widsuth*. Turning now to the Scandinavian records, we find much confusion as to details, and as to the characters of the heroes but the relationships are the same as in the Old English poem

Heorogar is, it is true, forgotten; and though a name Hiarwarus is found in Saxo corresponding to that of Heorowearð, the son of Heorogar, in *Beowulf*, this Hiarwarus is cut off from the family, now that his father is no longer remembered. Accordingly the Halfdan of Danish tradition (Haldanus in Saxo's Latin = O E Healfdene) has only two sons, Hroar

<sup>1</sup> *Widsuth*, l. 46

<sup>2</sup> *Beowulf*, l. 2160. Had Hrothulf been a son of Heorogar he could not have been passed over in silence here. Neither can Hrothulf be Hrothgar's sister's son for since the sister married the Swedish king, Hrothulf would in that case be a Swedish prince, and presumably would be living at the Swedish court, and bearing a name connected by alliteration with those of the Swedish, not the Danish house. Besides, had he been a Swedish prince, he must have been heard of in connection with the dynastic quarrels of the Swedish house

<sup>3</sup> ll. 1163-5

<sup>5</sup> ll. 1180 etc

<sup>4</sup> ll. 1188-91



(Saxo's Roe, corresponding to O E Hrothgar) and Helgi (Saxo's Helgo. = O E. Halga) Helgi is the father of Rolf Kraki (Saxo's Roluo = O E Hrothulf), the type of the noble king, the Arthur of Denmark

And, just as Arthur holds court at Camelot, or Charlemagne is at home *ad Ais, à sa capele*, so the Scandinavian traditions represent Rolf Kraki as keeping house at Leire (*Lethra, Hleiðar garðr*)

Accounts of all these kings, and above all of Rolf Kraki, meet us in a number of Scandinavian documents, of which three are particularly important

(1) Saxo Grammaticus (the lettered), the earlier books of whose *Historia Danica* are a storehouse of Scandinavian tradition and poetry, clothed in a difficult and bombastic, but always amusing, Latin. How much later than the English these Scandinavian sources are, we can realize by remembering that when Saxo was putting the finishing touches to his history, King John was ruling in England

There are also a number of other Danish-Latin histories and genealogies •

(2) The Icelandic *Saga of Rolf Kraki*, a late document belonging to the end of the middle ages, but nevertheless containing valuable matter

(3) The Icelandic *Skjoldunga saga*, extant only in a Latin summary of the end of the sixteenth century

#### SECTION IV LEIRE AND HEOROT.

The village of Leire remains to the present day. It stands near the north coast of the island of Seeland, some five miles from Roskilde and three miles from the sea, in a gentle valley, through the midst of which flows a small stream. The village itself consists of a tiny cluster of cottages the outstanding feature of the place is formed by the huge grave mounds scattered around in all directions

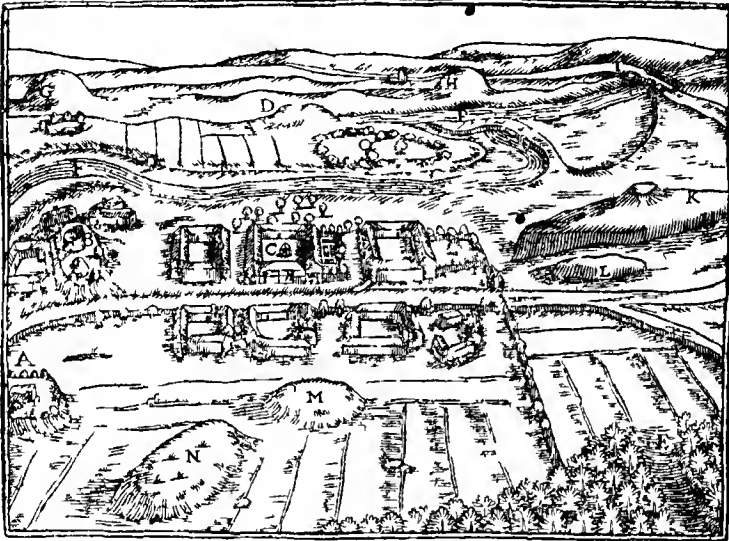
The tourist, walking amid these cottages and mounds, may feel fairly confident that he is standing on the site of Heorot

There are two distinct stages in this identification it must be proved (a) that the modern Leire occupies the site of the Leire (*Lethra*) where Rolf Kraki ruled, and (b) that the Leire of Rolf Kraki was built on the site of Heorot

(a) That the modern Leire occupies the site of the ancient Leire has indeed been disputed<sup>1</sup>, but seems hardly open to

<sup>1</sup> Doubts are expressed, for example, in Trap's monumental topographical work (*Kongenskiølet Danmark*, II, 328, 1898) •

IN LIBRUM II HISTORIÆ DANICÆ SAXONIS GRAMMATICI  
ANTIQUISSIMÆ IN DANIA  
ARCIS ET OPPIDI  
LETHRÆ  
TOPOGRAPHIA



- |   |                                       |   |                                     |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| A | Sejlskræmmeren                        | H | Olufshøjens Røgs Oliefæulchrum      |
| I | Sella Regis Dronningstenen vulgo      | I | Porta major Vajsbree vulgo          |
| C | Fortis Røgs chimæra                   | K | Equile olim regis Vestiberg         |
| D | Porta minor / Planities Tomiæ Regibus | L | Stadium pulcherrimum olim, Foleghøj |
|   | gesta                                 | M | Kirkeby                             |

LIBRI IN FINI SEPTIMI CENTURÆ

Ex Saxo Grammatico ed. Stephanus, 1644



doubt, in view of the express words of the Danish chroniclers<sup>1</sup>. It is true that the mounds, which these early chroniclers probably imagined as covering the ashes of 'Haldanus' or 'Roe,' and which later antiquaries dubbed with the names of other kings, are now thought to belong, not to the time of Hrothgar, but to the Stone or Bronze Ages. But this evidence that Leire was a place of importance thousands of years before Hrothgar or Hrothulf was born, in no wise invalidates the overwhelming evidence that it was their residence also.

The equation of the modern Leire with the Leire of Rolf Kraki we may then accept. We cannot be quite so sure of our thesis (b) that the ancient Leire was identical with the site where Hrothgar built Heorot. But it is highly probable for although Leire is more particularly connected with the memory of Rolf Kraki himself, we are assured, in one of the mediæval Danish chronicles, that Leire was the royal seat of Rolf's predecessors as well of Ro (Hrothgar) and of Ro's father and that Ro "enriched it with great magnificence<sup>2</sup>" Ro also, according to this chronicler, heaped a mound at Leire over the grave of his father, and was himself buried at Leire under another mound.

Now since the Danish tradition represents Hrothgar as enriching his royal town of Leire, whilst English tradition commemorates him as a builder king, constructing a royal hall "greater than the sons of men had ever heard speak of"—it becomes very probable that the two traditions are reflections of the same fact, and that the site of that hall was Leire. That Heorot, the picturesque name of the hall itself, should, in English tradition, have been remembered, whilst that of the town where it was built had been forgotten, is natural<sup>3</sup>. For

<sup>1</sup> For example Sweyn Aageson (c. 1200) had no doubt that the little village of Leire near Roskilde was identical with the Leire of story *Rolf Kraki, occisus in Lethra, quæ tunc famosissima Regis exstitit curia, nunc autem Roskildensis vicina civitati, inter abjectissimas ferme vix colitur oppida* Svenonis Aggonis *Historia Regum Danicæ*, in Langebek, i, 45.

<sup>2</sup> *Ro patrem vero suum Dan colle apud Lethram tumulavit Stalandie ubi sedem regni pro eo pater constituit, quam ipse post eum divitiis multiplicibus distavit*. In the so-called *Annales Eriemenses*, in Langebek, i, 224. Cf. Olrik, *Hæledigtning*, §, 188, 194. For further evidence, see Appendix (G) below.

<sup>3</sup> We must not think of Heorot as an isolated country seat. The Royal Hall would stand in the middle of the Royal Village, as in the case of the halls of Attila (Priscus in Møller's *Fragmenta*, iv, 385) or Cynewulf (*A S Chronicle*, Anno 755).

though the names of heroes survived in such numbers, after the settlement of the Angles in England, it was very rarely indeed, so far as we can judge, that the Angles and Saxons continued to have any clear idea concerning the *places* which had been familiar to their forefathers, but which they themselves had never seen.

Further, the names of both Hrothgar and Hrothulf are linked with Heorot in English tradition in the same way as those of Roe and Rolf are with Leire in Danish chronicles

Yet there is some little doubt, though not such as need seriously trouble us, as to this identification of the site of Heorot with Leire. Two causes especially have led students to doubt the connection of Roe (Hrothgar) with Leire, and to place elsewhere the great hall Heorot which he built

In the first place, Rolf Kraki came to be so intimately associated with Leire that his connection overshadowed that of Roe, and Saxo even goes so far in one place as to represent Leire as having been *founded* by Rolf<sup>1</sup>. In that case Leire clearly could not be the place where Rolf's predecessor built his royal hall. But that Saxo is in error here seems clear, for elsewhere he himself speaks of Leire as being a Danish stronghold when Rolf was a child<sup>2</sup>.

In the second place, Roe is credited with having founded the neighbouring town of Roskilde (Roe's spring)<sup>3</sup> so that some have wished to locate Heorot there, rather than at Leire, five miles to the west. But against this identification of Heorot with Roskilde it must be noted that Roe is said to have built Roskilde, not as a capital for himself, but as a market-place for the merchants: there is no suggestion that it was his royal town, though in time it became the capital, and its cathedral is still the Westminster Abbey of Denmark.

What at first sight looks so much in favour of our equating

<sup>1</sup> *Lethram pergitur, quod oppidum, a Roluone constructum eximisque regni opibus illustratum, ceteris confinium prouinciarum urbibus regie fundacionis et sedis auctoritate prestat*. Saxo, Book II (ed. Holder, p. 58).

<sup>2</sup> *Hic cognitis Helgo filium Roluonem Lethrica arce conclusit, heredis saluti consulturus* (p. 52).

<sup>3</sup> *A Roe Roskildia condita memoratur*. Saxo, Book II (ed. Holder, p. 51). Roe's spring, after being a feature of the town throughout the ages, is now (owing perhaps to its sources having been tapped by a neighbouring mineral-water factory) represented only by a pump in a market-garden.

Roskilde with Heorot—the presence in its name of the element *Ro* (Hrothgar)—is in reality the most suspicious thing about the identification. There are other names in Denmark with the element *Ro*, in places where it is quite impossible to suppose that the king's name is commemorated. Some other explanation of the name has therefore to be sought, and it is very probable that Roskilde meant originally not "Hrothgar's spring," but "the horses' spring," and that the connection with King *Ro* is simply one of those inevitable pieces of popular etymology which take place so soon as the true origin of a name is forgotten<sup>1</sup>

Leire has, then, a much better claim than Roskilde to being the site of Heorot and geographical considerations confirm this. For Heorot is clearly imagined by the poet of *Beowulf* as being some distance inland, and this, whilst it suits admirably the position of Leire, is quite inapplicable to Roskilde, which is situated on the sea at the head of the Roskilde fjord<sup>2</sup>. Of course we must not expect to find the poet of *Beowulf*, or indeed any epic poet, minutely exact in his geography. At the same time it is clear that at the time *Beowulf* was written there were traditions extant, dealing with the attack made upon Heorot by the ancestral foes of the Danes, a tribe called the Heathobeardan. These accounts of the fighting around Heorot must have preserved the general impression of its situation, precisely as from the *Iliad* we know that Troy is neither on the sea nor yet very remote from it. A poet would draw on his imagination for details, but would hardly alter a feature like this.

In these matters absolute certainty cannot be reached. but we may be fairly sure that the spot where Hrothgar built his "Hart-Hall" and where Hrothulf held that court to which the North ever after looked for its pattern of chivalry was

<sup>1</sup> I owe this paragraph to information kindly supplied me by Dr Sofus Larsen, librarian of the University Library, Copenhagen.

<sup>2</sup> It was once believed that, in prehistoric times, the sea came up to Leire also (Førchhammer Steenstrup and Worsaae *Undersøgelser i geologisk-antiquarisk Retning*, Kjøbenhavn, 1851). A most exact scrutiny of the geology of the coast-line has proved this to be erroneous (Danmarks geologiske Undersøgelse I R. 6 *Beskrivelse til Kaartbladene Kjøbenhavn og Roskilde*, af K. Rørdam, Kjøbenhavn, 1899).

Leire, where the grave mounds rise out of the waving corn-fields<sup>1</sup>.

#### SECTION V THE HEATHOBEARDAN.

Now, as *Beowulf* is the one long Old English poem which happens to have been preserved, we, drawing our ideas of Old English story almost exclusively from it, naturally think of Heorot as the scene of the fight with Grendel

But in the short poem of *Widsuth*, almost certainly older than *Beowulf*, we have a catalogue of the characters of the Old English heroic poetry. This catalogue is dry in itself, but is of the greatest interest for the light it throws upon Old Germanic heroic legends and the history behind them. And from *Widsuth* it is clear that the rule of Hrothgar and Hrothulf at Heorot and the attack of the Heathobearidan upon them, rather than any story of monster-quelling, was what the old poets more particularly associated with the name of Heorot. The passage in *Widsuth* runs

“For a very long time did Hrothgar and Hrothwulf, uncle and nephew, hold the peace together, after they had driven away the race of the Vikings and humbled the array of Ingeld, had hewed down at Heorot the host of the Heathobearidan.”

The details of this war can be reconstructed, partly from the allusions in *Beowulf*, partly from the Scandinavian accounts. The Scandinavian versions are less primitive and historic. They have forgotten all about the Heathobearidan as an independent tribe, and, whilst remembering the names of the leading chieftains on both sides, they see in them members of two rival branches of the Danish royal house.

We gather from *Beowulf* that for generations a blood feud has raged between the Danes and the Heathobearidan. Nothing is told us in *Beowulf* about the king Healfdene, except that he

<sup>1</sup> The presence at Leire of early remains makes it tempting to suppose that it may have been from very primitive times a stronghold or sacred place. It is impossible here to examine these conjectures, which would connect Heorot ultimately with the “sacred place on the isle of the ocean” mentioned by Tacitus. The curious may be referred to Much in *P B B* xvii 196-8, Mogk in *Pauls Grdr* (2) iii, 367, Kock in the Swedish *Historisk Tidskrift*, 1895, 162 etc.; and particularly to the articles by Sarrazin *Die Hirsch Halle in Anglia*, xix, 368-91, *Neue Beowulfstudien (Der Grendelsee)* in *Engl. Stud.* xlii, 6-15.

was fierce in war and that he lived to be old. From the Scandinavian stories it seems clear that he was concerned in the Heathobard feud. According to some later Scandinavian accounts he was slain by Frothi (= Froda, whom we know from *Beowulf* to have been king of the Heathobearðan) and this may well have been the historic fact<sup>1</sup>. How Hroar and Helgi (Hrothgar and Halga), the sons of Halfdan (Healfdene), evaded the pursuit of Frothi, we learn from the Scandinavian tales, whether the Old English story knew anything of their hair-breadth escapes we cannot tell. Ultimately, the saga tells us, Hroar and Helgi, in revenge for their father's death, burnt the hall over the head of his slayer, Frothi<sup>2</sup>. To judge from the hints in *Beowulf*, it would rather seem that the Old English tradition represented this vengeance upon Froda as having been inflicted in a pitched battle. The eldest brother Heorogar—known only to the English story—perhaps took his share in this feat. But, after his brothers Heorogar and Halga were dead, Hrothgar, left alone, and fearing vengeance in his turn, strove to compose the feud by wedding his daughter Freawaru to Ingeld, the son of Froda. So much we learn from the report which *Beowulf* gives, on his return home, to Hygelac, as to the state of things at the Danish court.

*Beowulf* is depicted as carrying a very sage head upon his young shoulders, and he gives evidence of his astuteness by predicting<sup>3</sup> that the peace which Hrothgar has purchased will not be lasting. Some Heathobard survivor of the fight in which Froda fell, will, he thinks, see a young Dane in the retinue of Freawaru proudly pacing the hall, wearing the treasures which his father had won from the Heathobearðan. Then the old warrior will urge on his younger comrade "Canst thou, my lord, tell the sword, the dear iron, which thy father carried to the fight when he bore helm for the last time, when the Danes slew him and had the victory? And now the son

<sup>1</sup> This seems to me much more probable than, as Olrik supposes, that Froda fell in battle against Healfdene (*Skjoldungasaga*, 162 [80]).

<sup>2</sup> *Saga of Rolf Kraki*, cap. iv.

<sup>3</sup> Olrik wishes to read the whole of this account, not as a prediction in the present future tense, but as a narrative of past events in the historic present (*Heltedogning*, i, 16. ii, 38). Considering the rarity of the historic present idiom in Old English poetry, this seems exceedingly unlikely.



of one of these slayers paces the hall, proud of his arms, boasts of the slaughter and wears the precious sword which thou by right shouldst wield<sup>1</sup>."

Such a reminder as this no Germanic warrior could long resist. So, Beowulf thinks, the young Dane will be slain; Ingeld will cease to take joy in his bride, and the old feud will break out afresh.

That it did so we know from *Widsith*, and from the same source we know that this Heathobard attack was repulsed by the combined strength of Hrothgar and his nephew Hrothulf.

But the tragic figure of Ingeld, hesitating between love for his father and love for his wife, between the duty of vengeance and his plighted word, was one which was sure to attract the interest of the old heroic poets more even than those of the victorious uncle and nephew. In the eighth century Alcuin, the Northumbrian, quotes Ingeld as the typical hero of song. Writing to a bishop of Lindisfarne, he reproves the monks for their fondness for the old stories about heathen kings, who are now lamenting their sins in Hell. "in the Refectory," he says, "the Bible should be read: the lector heard, not the harper; patristic sermons rather than pagan songs. For what has Ingeld to do with Christ<sup>2</sup>?" This protest testifies eloquently to the popularity of the Ingeld story, and further evidence is possibly afforded by the fact that few heroes of story seem to have had so many namesakes in Eighth Century England.

What is emphasized in *Beowulf* is not so much the struggle in the mind of Ingeld as the stern, unforgiving temper of the grim old warrior who will not let the feud die down, and this is the case also with the Danish versions, preserved to us in the Latin of Saxo Grammaticus. In two songs (translated by Saxo into "delightful sapphics") the old warrior Starcatherus stirs up Ingellus to his revenge.

"Why, Ingeld, buried in vice, dost thou delay to avenge thy father? Wilt thou endure patiently the slaughter of thy righteous sire?..

<sup>1</sup> ll 2047-2056

<sup>2</sup> *Verba dei legantur in sacerdotali convivio, ibi decet lectorem audiri, non citharistam, sermones patrum, non carmina gentium. Quid Hymelidus cum Christo? See Jaffé's Monumenta Alcuiniana (Bibliotheca Rer. Germ. vi), Berlin, 1873, p. 367, Epistolae, 81.*

Whilst thou takest pleasure in honouring thy bride, laden with gems, and bright with golden vestments, grief torments us, coupled with shame, as we bewail thine infamies

Whilst headlong lust urges thee, our troubled mind recalls the fashion of an earlier day, and admonishes us to grieve over many things

For we reckon otherwise than thou the crime of the foes, whom now thou holdest in honour, wherefore the face of this age is a burden to me, who have known the old ways

By nought more would I desire to be blessed, if, Froda, I might see those guilty of thy murder paying the due penalty of such a crime<sup>1</sup>

Starkath came to be one of the best-known figures in Scandinavian legend, the type of the fierce, unrelenting warrior. Even in death his severed head bit the earth — or according to another version “the trunk fought on when the head was gone<sup>2</sup>” Nor did the Northern imagination leave him there. It loved to follow him below, and to indulge in conjectures as to his bearing in the pit of Hell<sup>3</sup>

Who the Heathobearðan were is uncertain. It is frequently argued that they are identical with the Longobardi, that the words *Heatho-Bard* and *Long-Bard* correspond, just as we get sometimes *Gar-Dene*, sometimes *Hring-Dene* (So Heyne, Bremer in *Pauls Grdr* (2) III, 949 etc.). The evidence for this is however unsatisfactory (see Chambers, *Widsith*, 205). Since the year 186 A.D. onwards the Longobardi were dwelling far inland, and were certainly never in a position from which an attack upon the Danes would have been practicable. If, therefore, we accept the identification of *Heatho-Bard* and *Long-Bard*, we must suppose the Heathobearðan of *Beowulf* to have been not the Longobardi of history, but a separate portion of the people, which had been left behind on the shores of the Baltic, when the main body went south. But as we have no evidence for any such offshoot from the main tribe, it is misleading to speak of the Heathobearðan as identical with the Longobardi — and although the similarity of one element in the name suggests some primitive relationship, that relationship may well have been exceedingly remote<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Saxo, Book VI (ed. Holder, 205 212–13)

The contrast between this lyrical outburst, and the matter-of-fact speech in which the old warrior in *Beowulf* eggs on the younger man, is thoroughly characteristic of the difference between Old English and Old Scandinavian heroic poetry. This difference is very noticeable whenever we have occasion to compare a passage in *Beowulf* with any parallel passage in a Scandinavian poem, and should be carefully pondered by those who still believe that *Beowulf* is, in its present form, a translation from the Scandinavian.

<sup>2</sup> Saxo, Book VIII (ed. Holder, p. 274), *Helga kviða Hundingsbana* II, 19. See also Bugge, *Helge-digtene*, 157.

<sup>3</sup> *Þattr Þorsteins Skelks* in *Flateyjarbók* (ed. Vigfússon and Unger), I, 416.

<sup>4</sup> Similarly, there is certainly a primitive connection between the names of the Geatas (Gautar) and of the Goths — but they are quite distinct peoples. We should not be justified in speaking of the Geatas as identical with the Goths.

It has further been proposed to identify the Heathobearðan with the Heru<sup>1</sup>. The Heru<sup>1</sup> came from the Scandinavian district, overran Europe, and became famous for their valour, savagery, and value as light-armed troops. If the Heathobearðan are identical with the Heru<sup>1</sup>, and if what we are told of the customs of the Heru<sup>1</sup> is true, Freawaru was certainly to be pitied. The Heru<sup>1</sup> were accustomed to put to death their sick and aged, and to compel widows to commit suicide.

The supposed identity of the Heru<sup>1</sup> with the Heathobearðan is however very doubtful. It rests solely upon the statement of Jordanes that they had been driven from their homes by the Danes (*Dani Herulos propriis sedibus expulerunt*). This is inconclusive, since the growth of the Danish power is likely enough to have led to collisions with more than one tribe. In fact *Beowulf* tells us that Scyld "tore away the mead benches from many a people." On the other hand the dissimilarity of names is not conclusive evidence against the identification, for the word *Heru<sup>1</sup>* is pretty certainly the same as the Old English *Eorlas*, and is a complimentary nick-name applied by the tribe to themselves, rather than their original racial designation.

Nothing, then, is really known of the Heathobearðan, except that evidence points to their having dwelt somewhere on the Baltic<sup>2</sup>.

The Scandinavian sources which have preserved the memory of this feud have transformed it in an extraordinary way. The Heathobearðan came to be quite forgotten, although maybe some trace of their name remains in *Hothbrodd*, who is represented as the foe of Roe (Hrothgar) and Rolf (Hrothulf). When the Heathobearðan were forgotten, Froda and Ingeld were left without any subjects, and naturally came to be regarded, like Healfdene and the other kings with whom they were associated in story, as Danish kings. Accordingly the tale developed in Scandinavian lands in two ways. Some documents, and especially the Icelandic ones<sup>3</sup>, represent the struggle as a feud between two branches of the Danish royal house. Even here there is no agreement who is the usurper and who the victim, so that sometimes it is Froda and sometimes Healfdene who is represented as the traitor and murderer.

But another version<sup>4</sup>—the Danish—whilst making Froda and Ingeld into Danish kings, separates their story altogether from that of Healfdene and his house. In this version the quarrel is still thought of as being between two nations, not as between the rightful heir to the throne and a treacherous and relentless usurper. Accordingly the feud is such as may be, at any rate temporarily, laid aside. Peace between the contending parties is not out of the question. This version therefore preserves much more of the original character of the story, for it remains the tale of a young prince who, willing to marry into the house of his ancestral foes and to forgive and forget the old feud, is stirred by his more unrelenting henchman into taking vengeance for his father. But, owing to the prince having come to be represented as a Dane, patriotic reasons have suggested to the

<sup>1</sup> Mullenhoff (*Beowulf*, 29-32) followed by Much (*PBB* xvii, 201) and Henzel (*AfdA* xvi, 271). The best account of the Heru<sup>1</sup> is in Procopius (*Bell. Goth.* ii, 14, 15).

<sup>2</sup> See also Olrik, *Helledigtning*, i, 21, 22. Sarrazin in *Engl. Stud.* xlii, 11; Bugge, *Helg-digtene* 151-63, 181. Chambers, *Widsith*, p. 82 (note), pp. 205-6.

<sup>3</sup> *Saga of Rolf Kraki*. *Skjoldungasaga*.

<sup>4</sup> Best represented in Saxo.

Danish poets and historians a quite different conclusion to the story. Instead of being routed, Ingeld, in Saxo, is successful in his revenge.

See Neckel, *Studien über Froðr* in *Z f d A* XLVIII, 182 Heusler, *Zur Skjöldungensaga* in *Z f d A* XLVIII, 57: Olrik, *Skjoldungasaga*, 1894, 112 [30]; Olrik, *Heltedigtning*, II, 11 etc.: Olrik, *Saksnes Oldhistorie*, 222-6: Chambers, *Widsith*, pp 79-81.

## SECTION VI. HROTHULF.

Yet, although the Icelandic sources are wrong in representing Froda and Ingeld as Danes, they are not altogether wrong in representing the Danish royal house as divided against itself. Only they fail to place the blame where it really lay. For none of the Scandinavian sources attribute any act of injustice or usurpation to Rolf Kraki. He is the ideal king, and his title to the throne is not supposed to be doubtful.

Yet we saw that, in *Beowulf*, the position of Hrothulf is represented as an ambiguous one<sup>1</sup>, he is the king's too powerful nephew, whose claims may prejudice those of his less distinguished young cousins, the king's sons, and the speech of queen Wealhtheow is heavy with foreboding. "I know," she says, "that my gracious Hrothulf will support the young princes in honour, if thou, King of the Scyldings, shouldst leave the world sooner than he. I ween that he will requite our children, if he remembers all which we two have done for his pleasure and honour, being yet a child<sup>2</sup>." Whilst Hrethric and Hrothmund, the sons of King Hrothgar, have to sit with the juniors, the *giogoth*<sup>3</sup>, Hrothulf is a man of tried valour, who sits side by side with the king. "where the two good ones sat, uncle and nephew as yet was there peace between them, and each was true to the other<sup>4</sup>."

Again we have mention of "Hrothgar and Hrothulf Heorot was filled full of friends at that time the mighty Scylding folk in no wise worked treachery<sup>5</sup>." Similarly in *Widsith* the mention of Hrothgar and Hrothulf together seems to stir the poet to dark sayings. "For a very long time did Hrothgar and Hrothulf, uncle and nephew, hold the peace together<sup>6</sup>."

<sup>1</sup> See above, p 15  
<sup>2</sup> II 1163-5.

<sup>3</sup> II 1180-87  
<sup>4</sup> II 1017-19.

<sup>5</sup> II 1188-91  
<sup>6</sup> II 45-6

The statement that "as yet" or "for a very long time" or "at that time" there was peace within the family, necessarily implies that, at last, the peace *was* broken, that Hrothulf quarrelled with Hrothgar, or strove to set aside his sons<sup>1</sup>.

Further evidence is hardly needed; yet further evidence we have by rather complicated, but quite unforced, fitting together of various Scandinavian authorities, we find that Hrothulf deposed and slew his cousin Hrethric

Saxo Grammaticus tells us how Roluo (Rolf = O N. Hrolfr, O E Hrothulf) slew a certain Røricus (or Hrærek = O E Hrethric) and gave to his own followers all the plunder which he found in the city of Røricus Saxo is here translating an older authority, the *Bjarkamál* (now lost), and he did not know who Røricus was he certainly did not regard him as a son or successor of Roe (Hrothgar) or as a cousin of Roluo (Hrothulf) "Roluo, who laid low Røricus the son of the covetous Bøkus" is Saxo's phrase (*qui natum Bøki Røricum struxit avari*) This would be a translation of some such phrase in the *Bjarkamál* as *Hræreks bani hnøggvanbauga*, "the slayer of Hrærek Hnøggvanbaugi<sup>2</sup>"

But, when we turn to the genealogy of the Danish kings<sup>3</sup>, we actually find a *Hrærekr Hnauggvanbaugi* given as a king of Denmark about the time of Roluo This Røricus or *Hrærekr* who was slain by Roluo was then, himself, a king of the Danes, and must, therefore, have preceded Roluo on the throne But in that case Røricus *must* be son of Roe, and identical with his namesake Hrethric, the son of Hrothgar, in *Beowulf* For no one but a son of King Roe could have had such a claim to the throne as to rule between that king and his all powerful nephew Roluo<sup>3</sup>

It is difficult, perhaps, to state this argument in a way which will be convincing to those who are not acquainted with Saxo's method of working To those who realize how he treats

<sup>1</sup> For a contrary view see Clarke, *Sidelights*, 100

<sup>2</sup> Saxo has mistaken a title *hnøggvanbaugi* for a father's name, (*hinn*) *hnøggva Baugs* "(son of the) covetous Baug"

<sup>3</sup> *Langfæðgatal* in Langebek, I, 5 The succession given in *Langfæðgatal* is Halfdan, Helgi and Hroar, Rolf, Hrærek it should, of course, run Halfdan, Helgi and Hroar, Hrærek, Rolf Hrærek has been moved from his proper place in order to clear Rolf of any suspicion of usurpation

his sources, it will be clear that Rǫgnir is the son of Roe, and is slain by Roluo. Translating the words into their Old English equivalents, Hrethric, son of Hrothgar, is slain by Hrothulf.

The forebodings of Wealhtheow were justified.

Hrethric is then almost certainly an actual historic prince who was thrust from the throne by Hrothulf. Of Hrothmund<sup>1</sup>, his brother, Scandinavian authorities seem to know nothing. He is very likely a poetical fiction, a duplicate of Hrethric. For it is very natural that in story the princes whose lives are threatened by powerful usurpers should go in pairs. Hrethric and Hrothmund go together like Malcolm and Donalbain. Their helplessness is thus emphasized over against the one mighty figure, Rolf or Macbeth, threatening them<sup>2</sup>.

Yet this does not prove Hrothmund unhistoric. On the contrary it may well happen that the facts of history will coincide with the demands of well-ordered narrative, as was the case when Richard of Gloucester murdered *two* young princes in the Tower.

Two other characters, who meet us in *Beowulf*, seem to have some part to play in this tragedy.

It was a maxim of the old Teutonic poetry, as it is of the British Constitution, that the king could do no wrong: the real fault lay with the adviser. If Ermanaric the Goth slew his wife and his son, or if Irminfrid the Thuringian unwisely challenged Theodoric the Frank to battle, this was never supposed to be due solely to the recklessness of the monarch himself—it was the work of an evil counsellor—a Bikkī or an Iring. Now we have seen that there is mischief brewing in Heorot—and we are introduced to a counsellor Unferth, the *thyle* or official spokesman and adviser of King Hrothgar. And Unferth is evil. His jealous temper is shown by the hostile and inhospitable reception which he gives to Beowulf. And Beowulf's reply gives us a hint of some darker stain: "though

<sup>1</sup> l. 1189.

<sup>2</sup> See Olrik, *Episke Love in Danske Studier*, 1908, p. 79. Compare the remark of Goethe in *Wilhelm Meister*, as to the necessity of there being *both* a Rosencrantz and a Guildenstern (*Apprenticeship*, Book V, chap. v).

thou hast been the slayer of thine own brethren—thy flesh and blood: for that thou shalt suffer damnation in hell, good though thy wit may be<sup>1</sup>” One might perhaps think that Beowulf in these words was only giving the “countercheck quarrelsome,” and indulging in mere reckless abuse, just as Sinfjotli (the Fitela of *Beowulf*) in the *First Helgi Lay* hurls at his foes all kinds of outrageous charges assuredly not meant to be taken literally. But, as we learn from the *Helgi Lay* itself, the uttering of such unfounded taunts was not considered good form, whilst it seems pretty clear that the speech of Beowulf to Unferth is intended as an example of justifiable and spirited self-defence, not, like the speech of Sinfjotli, as a storehouse of things which a well-mannered warrior should *not* say

Besides, the taunt of Beowulf is confirmed, although but darkly, by the poet himself, in the same passage in which he has recorded the fears of Wealhtheow lest perhaps Hrothulf should not be loyal to Hrothgar and his issue. “Likewise there Unferth the counsellor sat at the foot of the lord of the Scyldingas each of them [i.e. both Hrothgar and Hrothulf] trusted to his spirit that his courage was great, *though he had not done his duty by his kinsmen at the sword-play*.”

But, granting that Unferth has really been the cause of the death of his kinsmen, some scholars have doubted whether we are to suppose that he literally slew them himself. For, had that been the case, they urge, he could not be occupying a place of trust with the almost ideal king Hrothgar. But the record of the historians makes it quite clear that murder of kin did happen, and that constantly.<sup>2</sup> Amid the tragic complexities of heroic life it often could not be avoided. The *comitatus*-system, by which a man was expected to give unflinching support to any chief whose service he had entered, must often have resulted in slaughter between men united by very close bonds of kin or friendship. Turning from history to saga, we find some of the greatest heroes not free from the stain. Sigmund,

<sup>1</sup> ll 587-9

<sup>2</sup> ll 1165-8

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps such murder of kin was more common among the aristocratic houses than among the bulk of the population (Chadwick, *H.A.* 349). In some great families it almost becomes the rule, producing a state of things similar to that in present day Afghanistan, where it has become a proverb that a man is “as great an enemy as a cousin” (Pennell, *Afghan Frontier*, 30)

Gunnar, Hogni, Ath, Hrothulf, Heoroweard, Hnæf, Eadgils, Hæthcyn, Ermanaric and Hildebrand were all marred with this taint, and indeed were, in many cases, rather to be pitied than blamed. I doubt, therefore, whether we need try and save Unferth's character by suggesting that the stern words of the poet mean only that he had indirectly caused the death of his brethren by failing them, in battle, at some critical moment<sup>1</sup>. I suspect that this, involving cowardice or incompetence, would have been held the more unpardonable offence, and *would* have resulted in Unferth's disgrace. But a man might well have slain his kin under circumstances which, while leaving a blot on his record, did not necessitate his banishment from good society. All the same, the poet evidently thinks it a weakness on the part of Hrothgar and Hrothulf that, after what has happened, they still put their trust in Unferth.

Here then is the situation. The king has a counsellor that counsellor is evil. Both the king and his nephew trust the evil counsellor. A bitter feud springs up between the king and his nephew. That the feud was due to the machinations of the evil adviser can hardly be doubted by those who have studied the ways of the old Germanic heroic story. But it is only an inference. positive proof we have none.

Lastly, there is Heoroweard. Of him we are told in *Beowulf* very little. He is son of Heorogar (or Heregar), Hrothgar's elder brother, who was apparently king before him, but died young<sup>2</sup>. It is quite natural, as we have seen, that, if Heoroweard was too young for the responsibility when his father died, he should not have succeeded to the throne. What is not so natural is that he does not inherit his father's arms, which one might reasonably have supposed Hrothgar would have preserved, to give to him when he came of age. Instead, Hrothgar gives them to Beowulf<sup>3</sup>. Does Hrothgar deliberately avoid doing honour to Heoroweard, because he fears that any distinction conferred upon him would strengthen a rival

<sup>1</sup> This is proposed by Cosijn (*Aanteekeningen*, 21) and again independently by Lawrence in *MLN* xxv, 157.

<sup>2</sup> ll. 467-9.

<sup>3</sup> ll. 2155-62.



whose claims to the throne might endanger those of his own sons? However this may be, in any future struggle for the throne Heoroweard may reasonably be expected to play some part

Turning now to Saxo, and to the *Saga of Rolf Kraki*, we find that Rolf owed his death to the treachery of one whose name corresponds exactly to that of Heoroweard—Hjarwarus (Saxo), Hjørvarthr (*Saga*). Neither Saxo nor the *Saga* thinks of Hjarwarus as the cousin of Rolf Kraki: they do not make it really clear *what* the cause of his enmity was. But they tell us that, after a banquet, he and his men treacherously rose upon Rolf and his warriors. The defence which Rolf and his men put up in their burning hall—the loyalty and defiance of Rolf's champions, invincible in death—these were amongst the most famous things of the North, they were told in the *Bjarkamál*, now unfortunately extant in Saxo's paraphrase only.

But the triumph of Hjarwarus was brief. Rolf's men all fell around him, save the young Wiggo, who had previously, in the confidence of youth, boasted that, should Rolf fall, he would avenge him. Astonished at the loyalty of Rolf's champions, Hjarwarus expressed regret that none had taken quarter, declaring that he would gladly accept the service of such men. Whereupon Wiggo came from the hiding-place where he had taken refuge, and offered to do homage to Hjarwarus, by placing his hand on the hilt of his new lord's sword: but in doing so he drove the point through Hjarwarus, and rejoiced as he received his death from the attendants of the foe he had slain. It shows how entirely the duty of vengeance was felt to outweigh all other considerations, that this treacherous act of Wiggo is always spoken of with the highest praise.

For the story of the fall of Rolf and his men see Saxo, Book II (ed. Holder, pp. 55-68). *Saga of Rolf Kraki*, caps. 32-34: *Skjoldunga Saga* (ed. Olrik, 1894, 36-7 [118-9]).

How the feud between the different members of the Danish family forms the background to *Beowulf* was first explained in full detail by Ludvig Schrøder (*Om Bjovulfs-drapen. Efter en række foredrag på folke-højskolen i Askov*, Kjøbenhavn, 1875). Schrøder showed how the bad character of Unferth has its part to play. "It is a weakness in Hrothgar that he entrusts important office to such a man—a

weakness which will carry its punishment" Independently the domestic feud was demonstrated again by Sarrazin (*Rolf Krake und sein vetter im Beowulfliede: Engl Stud xxiv*, 144-5) The story has been fully worked out by Olrik (*Heltedigtning*, 1903, I, 11-18 etc)

These views have been disputed by Miss Clarke (*Sidelights*, 102), who seems to regard as "hypotheses" of Olrik data which have been ascertained facts for more than a generation Miss Clarke's contentions, however, appear to me to be based upon a misunderstanding of Olrik

## SECTION VII KING OFFA.

The poem, then, is mainly concerned with the deeds of Geatic and Danish kings only once is reference made to a king of Anglian stock—Offa

The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* tells us of several kings named Offa, but two only concern us here Still remembered is the historic tyrant-king who reigned over Mercia during the latter half of the eighth century, and who was celebrated through the Middle Ages chiefly as the founder of the great abbey of St Albans This Offa is sometimes referred to as Offa the Second, because he had a remote ancestor, Offa I, who, if the Mercian pedigree can be trusted, lived twelve generations earlier, and therefore presumably in the latter half of the fourth century Offa I, then, must have ruled over the Angles whilst they were still dwelling in Angel, their continental home, in or near the modern Schleswig

Now the Offa mentioned in *Beowulf* is spoken of as related to Garmund and Eomer (MS *geomor*) This, apart from the abundant further evidence, is sufficient to identify him with Offa I, who was, according to the pedigree, the son of Wærmund and the grandfather of Eomer.

This Offa I, king of Angel, is referred to in *Widsuth* *Widsuth* is a composite poem: the passage concerning Offa, though not the most obviously primitive portion of it, is, nevertheless, early it may well be earlier than *Beowulf* After a list of famous chieftains we are told

Offa ruled Angel, Alewih the Danes, he was the boldest of all these men, yet did he not in his deeds of valour surpass Offa But Offa gained, first of men, by arms the greatest of kingdoms whilst yet a boy, no one of equal age ever did greater deeds of valour in battle with his single sword he drew the boundary against the Myrgingas at Ffifeldor The boundaries were held afterwards by the Angles and the Swæfe as Offa struck it out

Much is obscure here more particularly our ignorance as to the Myrgingas is to be regretted. but there is reason for thinking that they were a people dwelling to the south of the old continental home of the Angles.

After the lapse of some five centuries, we get abundant further information concerning Offa. The legends about him, though carried to England by the Anghian conquerors, must also have survived in the neighbourhood of his old kingdom of Angel. for as Angel was incorporated into the Danish kingdom, so these stories became part of the stock of Danish national legend. Offa came to be regarded as a Danish king, and his story is told at length by the two earliest historians of Denmark, Sweyn Aageson and Saxo Grammaticus. In Saxo the story runs thus.

Wermund, king of Denmark, had a son Uffo [Offa], tall beyond the measure of his age, but dull and speechless. When Wermund grew blind, his southern neighbour, the king of Saxony, laid claim to Denmark on the ground that he was no longer fit to rule, and, relying upon Uffo's incapacity, suggested that the quarrel should be decided by their two sons in single combat. Wermund, in despair, offered himself to fight, in spite of his blindness. This offer the envoys of the Saxon king refused with insult, and the Danes knew not what to say. Thereupon Uffo, who happened to be present, suddenly asked leave to speak. Wermund could not believe that it was really his son who had spoken, but when they all assured him that it *was*, he gave the permission. "In vain," then said Uffo, "does the king of Saxony covet the land of Denmark, which trusts to its true king and its brave nobles. neither is a son wanting to the king nor a successor to the kingdom." And he offered to fight not only the Saxon prince, but any chosen champion the prince might bring with him.

The Saxon envoys accepted the offer and departed. The blind king was at last convinced, by passing his hands over him, that the speaker had been in truth his son. But it was found difficult to arm him; for his broad chest split the rings of every coat of mail. the largest, his father's, had to be cleft down the side and fastened with a clasp. Likewise no sword

was so well tempered that he did not shatter it by merely brandishing it, till the old king directed his men how they might find his ancient sword, *Skrep* (= ? stedfast) which he had buried, in despair, thinking his son unworthy of it. The sword, when found, was so frail from age that Uffo did not test it for Wermund told him that, if he broke it, there was no other left strong enough for him.

So Uffo and his two antagonists were taken to the place of combat, an island in the river Eider. Crowds lined either bank, and Wermund stood prepared to throw himself into the river should his son be slain. Uffo held back at first, till he had discovered which of his antagonists was the more dangerous, since he feared the sword would only be good for one blow. Then, having by his taunts induced the champion to come to close quarters, he clove him asunder with one stroke. Wermund cried out that he had heard the sound of his son's sword, and asked where the blow had fallen. His attendants assured him that it had pierced, not any particular part, but the man's whole structure.

So Wermund drew back from the edge, desiring life now as keenly as before he had longed for death. Finally Uffo smote his second antagonist through, thus opening a career which after such a beginning we may well believe to have been glorious.

The story is told again by Sweyn Aageson in a slightly varying form. Sweyn's story has some good traits of its own—as when it makes Uffo enter the lists girt with *two* swords, intending to use his father's only in an emergency. The worthless sword breaks, and all the Danes quake for fear whereupon Uffo draws the old sword and achieves the victory. But above all Sweyn Aageson tells us the *reason* of Uffo's dumbness and incapacity, which Saxo leaves obscure. It was the result of shame over the deeds of two Danes who had combined to avenge their father upon a single foe. What is the incident referred to we can gather from Saxo. Two Danes, Keto and Wigo, whose father Frowinus had been slain by a hostile king Athislus, attacked Athislus together, two to one, thus breaking the laws of the duel. Uffo had wedded the sister of

Keto and Wigo, and it was in order to wipe out the stain left upon his family and his nation by their breach of duelling etiquette that he insisted upon fighting single-handed against two opponents.

That this incident was also known in England is rendered probable by the fact that Freawine and Wig, who correspond to Saxo's Frowinus and Wiggo, are found in the genealogy of English kings, and that an Eadgils, king of the Myrgingas, who is almost certainly the Athislus of Saxo<sup>1</sup>, also appears in Old English heroic poetry. It is probable then that the two tales were connected in Old English story. The two brethren shamefully combine to avenge their father. In due time the family of the slain foe take up the feud. Offa saves his country and his country's honour by voluntarily undertaking to fight one against two.

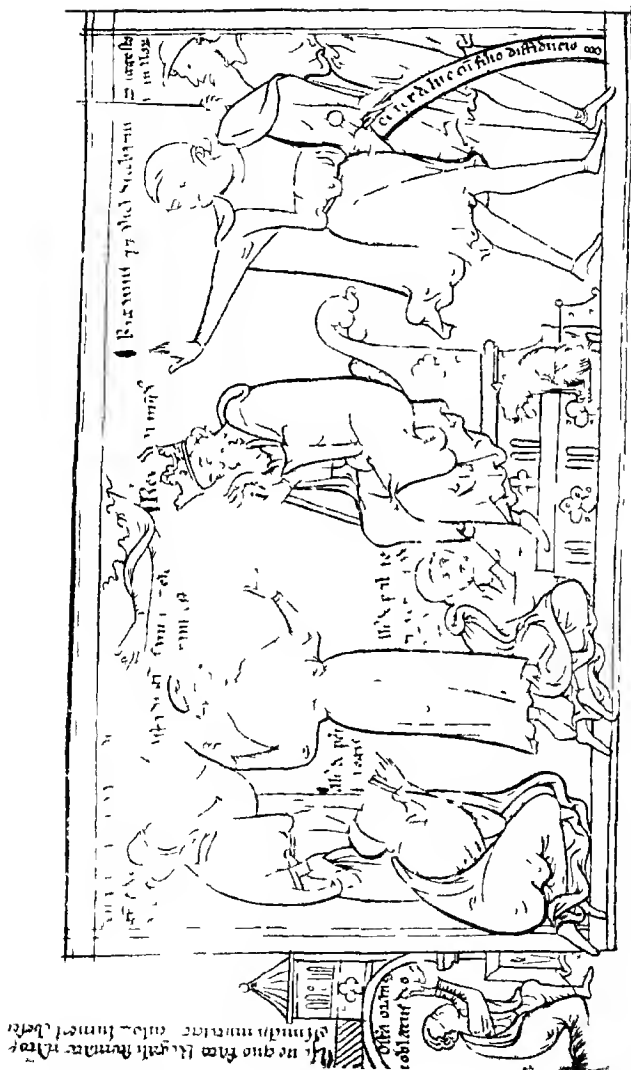
About the same time that the Danish ecclesiastics were at work, a monk of St Albans was committing to Latin the English stories which were still current concerning Offa. The object of the English writer was, however, local rather than national. He wrote the *Vitae duorum Offarum* to celebrate the historic Offa, king of Mercia, the founder of his abbey, and that founder's ancestor, Offa I. popular tradition had confused the two, and much is told concerning the Mercian Offa that seems to belong more rightly to his forefather. The St Albans writer drew upon contemporary tradition and it is evident that in certain cases, as when he gives two sets of names to some of the chief actors in the story, he is trying to harmonize two distinct versions. He makes at least one error which seems to point to a written source<sup>2</sup>. In one of the MSS the story is illustrated by a series of very artistic drawings, which might possibly be from the pen of Matthew Paris himself<sup>3</sup>. These drawings depict a version of the story which in some respects differs from the Latin text which they accompany.

The story is located in England. Warmundus is represented as a king of the Western Angles, ruling at Warwick.

<sup>1</sup> See *Widsith*, ed Chambers, pp 92-4.

<sup>2</sup> See Rickert, "The Old English Offa Saga" in *Mod Phil* 9, esp p 75.

<sup>3</sup> The common ascription of the *Lives of the Offas* to Matthew Paris is erroneous. They are somewhat earlier.





Offa, his only son, was blind till his seventh, dumb till his thirtieth year. Accordingly an ambitious noble, Riganus, otherwise called Ahel, claims to be recognized heir, in hope of gaining the throne for his son, Hildebrand (Brutus). Offa gains the gift of speech in answer to prayer, to the joy of his father and the councillors he vindicates his right, much as in the Danish story. He is knighted with a chosen body of companions, armed, and leads the host to meet the foe. He dashes across the river which separates the two armies, although his followers hang back. This act of cowardice on their part is not explained. It is apparently a reminiscence of an older version in which Offa fights his duel single handed by the river, and his host look on. The armies join battle, but after a long struggle draw away from each other with the victory undecided. Offa remaining in front of his men is attacked by Brutus (or Hildebrand) and Sueno, the sons of the usurper, and slays them both (a second reminiscence of the duel-scene). He then hurls himself again upon the foe, and wins the victory.

*Widsuth* shows us that the Danish account has kept closer to the primitive story than has later English tradition. *Widsuth* confirms the Danish view that the quarrel was with a foreign, not with a domestic foe, and the combat a duel, not a pitched battle. Above all, *Widsuth* confirms Saxo in representing the fight as taking place on the Eider—*bī Fīfeldore*<sup>1</sup>, whilst the account recorded by the monk of St Albans had localised the story in England.

<sup>1</sup> The identification of *Fīfeldor* with the Eider has been doubted, notably by Holthausen, though he seems less doubtful in his latest edition (third edit. II, 178). The reasons for the identification appear to me the following. Place names ending in *dor* are exceedingly rare. When, therefore, two independent authorities tell us that Offa fought at a place named *Fīfel dor* or *Egī-dor*, it appears unlikely that this can be a mere coincidence. It seems more natural to assume that the names are corruptions of one original. But further, the connection is not limited to the second element in the name. For the Eider (*Egudora*, *Ægisdyr*) would in O.E. be *Egor-dor* and *Egor dor* stands to *Fīfel-dor* precisely as *egor stream* (Boethius, *Metra*, xx, 118) does to *fīfel stream* (*Metra*, xxvi, 26), "*egor*" and "*fīfel*" being interchangeable synonyms. See note to *Widsuth*, I 43 (p. 204). It is objected that the interchange of *fīfel* and *egor*, though frequent in common nouns, would be unusual in the name of a place. The reply is that the Old English *scop* may not have regarded it as a place-name. He may have substituted *fīfel-dor* for the synonymous *egor dor*, "the monster gate," without realizing that it was the name of a definite place, just as he would have substituted *fīfel stream* for *egor stream* "the monster stream, the sea," if alliteration demanded the change.



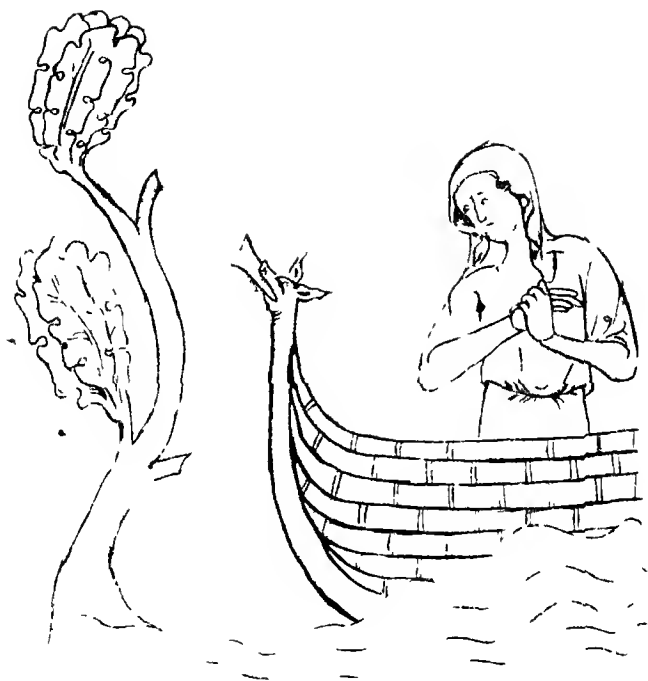
In *Beowulf* too we hear of Offa as a mighty king, "the best of all mankind betwixt the seas." But, although his wars are referred to, we are given no details of them. The episode in *Beowulf* relates rather to his wife Thryth, and his dealings with her. The passage is the most obscure in the whole poem, but this at least is clear. Thryth had an evil reputation for cruelty and murder: she wedded Offa, and he put a stop to her evil deeds: she became to him a good and loyal wife.

Now in the *Life of the two Offas* quite a long space is devoted to the matrimonial entanglements of both kings. Concerning Offa I, a tale is told of how he succoured a daughter of the king of York, who had been turned adrift by her father, how when his years were advancing his subjects pressed him to marry, and how his mind went back to the damsel whom he had saved, and he chose her for his wife. Whilst the king was absent on his wars, a messenger whom he had sent with a letter to report his victories passed through York, where the wicked father of Offa's queen lived. A false letter was substituted, commanding that the queen and her children should be mutilated and left to die in the woods, because she was a witch and had brought defeat upon the king's arms. The order was carried out, but a hermit rescued and healed the queen and her children, and ultimately united them to the king.

This is a popular folk-tale which is scattered all over Europe, and which has many times been clothed in literary form: in France in the romance of the *Manekine*, in English in the metrical romance of *Emaré*, and in Chaucer's *Man of Lawes Tale*. From the name of the heroine in the last of these versions, the tale is often known as the *Constance-story*. But it is clear that this tale is not identical with the obscure story of the wife of Offa, which is indicated in *Beowulf*.

When, however, we turn to the *Life of Offa II*, we do find a very close parallel to the Thryth story.

This tells how in the days of Charles the Great a certain beautiful but wicked girl, related to that king, was condemned to death on account of her crimes, but, from respect for her birth, was exposed instead in a boat without sails or tackle, and driven ashore on the coast of King Offa's land. *Drda*, as



DRIDA (THIRYTH) ARRIVES IN THE LAND OF KING OFFA,  
' IN NAUICULA ARMAMENTIS CARENTE '

*From MS Cotton Nero D I, fol 11a*



she said her name was, deceived the king by a tale of injured innocence, and he committed her to the safe keeping of his mother, the Countess Marcellina. Later, Offa fell in love with Drida, and married her, after which she became known as *Quendrida*. But Drida continued her evil courses and compassed the death of St Æthelbert, the vassal king of East Anglia. In the end she was murdered by robbers—a just punishment for her crimes—and her widowed husband built the Abbey of St Albans as a thank-offering for her death.

The parallel here is too striking to be denied: for Drida is but another way of spelling Thryth, and the character of the murderous queen is the same in both stories. There are, however, striking differences: for whereas Thryth ceases from her evil deeds and becomes a model wife to Offa, Drida continues on her course of crime, and is cut off by violence in the midst of her evil career. How are we to account for the parallels and for the discrepancies?

As a matter of historical fact, the wife of Offa, king of Mercia, was named (not indeed Cwænthryth, which is the form which should correspond to Quendrida, but) Cynethryth. The most obvious and facile way of accounting for the likeness between what we are told in *Beowulf* of the queen of Offa I, and what we are elsewhere told of the queen of Offa II, is to suppose that Thryth in *Beowulf* is a mere fiction evolved from the historic Cynethryth, wife of Offa II, and by poetic licence represented as the wife of his ancestor, Offa I. It was in this way she was explained by Professor Earle:

The name [Thrytho] was suggested by that of Cynethryth, Offa's queen. The vindictive character here given to Thrytho is a poetic and veiled admonition addressed to Cynethryth<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately this, like many another facile theory, is open to fatal objections. In the first place the poem of *Beowulf* can, with fair certainty, be attributed to a date *earlier* than that at which the historic Offa and his spouse lived. Of course, it may be said that the Offa episode in *Beowulf* is an interpolation of a later date. But this needs proof.

There are metrical and above all syntactical grounds

<sup>1</sup> *The Deeds of Beowulf*, LXXXV

which have led most scholars to place *Beowulf* very early<sup>1</sup>. If we wish to regard the *Offa-Thryth*-episode as a later interpolation, we ought first to prove that it is later in its syntax and metre. We have no right to assume that the episode is an interpolation merely because such an assumption may suit our theory of the development of *Beowulf*. So until reasons are forthcoming for supposing the episode of Thryth to be later than the rest of the poem, we can but note that what we know of the date of *Beowulf* forbids us to accept Earle's theory that Thryth is a reflection of, or upon, the historic Cynethryth.

But there are difficulties in the way of Earle's theory even more serious than the chronological one. We know nothing very definitely about the wife of Offa II, except her name, but from a reference in a letter of Alcuin it seems clear that she was a woman of marked piety—it is not likely that she could have been guilty of deliberate murder of the kind represented in the *Life of Offa II*. The *St Albans Life* depends, so far as we know, upon the traditions which were current four centuries after her death. There may be, there doubtless are, some historic facts concerning Offa preserved in it—but we have no reason to think that the bad character of Offa's queen is one of them. Indeed, on purely intrinsic grounds we might well suppose the reverse. As a matter of history we know that Offa *did* put to death Æthelberht, the vassal king of East Angla. When in the *Life* we find Offa completely exonerated, and the deed represented as an assassination brought about by the malice and cruelty of his queen, it seems intrinsically likely that we are dealing with an attempt of the monks to clear their founder by transferring his cruel deeds to the account of his wife.

So far, then, from Thryth being a reflection of an historic cruel queen Cynethryth, it is more probable that the influence has been in the reverse direction, that the pious Cynethryth has been represented as a monster of cruelty because she has not unnaturally been confused with a mythical Thryth, the wife of Offa I.

To this it may be objected that we have no right to assume remarkable coincidences, and that such a coincidence is in-

<sup>1</sup> See below, pp. 105-12, and Appendix (D) below.

volved by the assumption that there was a story of a mythical Thryth, the wife of Offa I, and that this existed prior to, and independently of, the actual wedding of Offa II to a Cyne-thryth. But the exceeding frequency of the element *thryth* in the names of women robs this objection of all its point. Such a coincidence, far from being remarkable, would be the most natural in the world. If we look at the Mercian pedigree we find that almost half the ladies connected with it have that element *thryth* in their names. The founder of the house, Wihtlæg, according to Saxo Grammaticus<sup>1</sup>, wedded Hermuthruda, the old English form of which would be Eormenthryth.

It is to this lady Hermuthruda that we must now devote our attention. She belongs to a type which is common in folk-tale down to the time of Hans Andersen—the cruel princess who puts her lovers to death unless they can vanquish her in some way, worsting her in a contest of wits, such as the guessing of riddles, or a contest of strength, such as running, jumping, or wrestling. The stock example of this perilous maiden is, of course, for classical story Atalanta, for Germanic tradition the Brunhilt of the *Nibelungen Lied*, who demands from her wooer that he shall surpass her in all three feats, if he fails in one, his head is forfeit<sup>2</sup>.

Of this type was Hermuthruda. "in the cruelty of her arrogance she had always loathed her wooers, and inflicted upon them the supreme punishment, so that out of many there was not one but paid for his boldness with his head<sup>3</sup>," words which remind us strongly of what our poets say of Thryth.

Hamlet (Amlethus) is sent by the king of Britain to woo this maiden for him, but she causes Hamlet's shield and the commission to be stolen while he sleeps. she learns from the shield that the messenger is the famous and valiant Hamlet, and alters the commission so that her hand is requested, not for the king of Britain, but for Hamlet himself. With this request she complies, and the wedding is celebrated. But when Wihtlæg (Vigletus) conquers and slays Hamlet, she weds the conqueror, thus becoming ancestress of Offa.

<sup>1</sup> Wihtlæg appears in Saxo as *Vigletus* (Book iv, ed Holder, p 105)

<sup>2</sup> *Nibelungen Lied*, ed Piper, 328      <sup>3</sup> Book iv (ed Holder, p 102)

It may well be that there is some connection between the Thryth of *Beowulf* and the Hermuthruda who in Saxo weds Offa's ancestor—that they are both types of the wild maiden who becomes a submissive though not always happy wife. If so, the continued wickedness of Drida in the *Life of Offa II* would be an alteration of the original story, made in order to exonerate Offa II from the deeds of murder which, as a matter of history, did characterize his reign

## CHAPTER II

### THE NON-HISTORICAL ELEMENTS

#### SECTION I. THE GRENDEL FIGHT.

WHEN we come to the story of Beowulf's struggle with Grendel, with Grendel's mother, and with the dragon, we are faced by difficulties much greater than those which meet us when considering that background of Danish or Geatic history in which these stories are framed.

( In the first place, it is both surprising and confusing that, in the prologue, before the main story begins, *another* Beowulf is introduced, the son of Scyld Scefing. Much emphasis is laid upon the upbringing and youthful fame of this prince, and the glory of his father. Any reader would suppose that the poet is going on to tell of *his* adventures, when suddenly the story is switched off, and, after brief mention of this Beowulf's son, Healfdene, we come to Hrothgar, the building of Heorot, Grendel's attack, and the voyage of Beowulf the Geat to the rescue.

Now "Beowulf" is an exceedingly rare name. The presence of the earlier Beowulf, Scyld's son, seems then to demand explanation, and many critics, working on quite different lines, have arrived independently at the conclusion that either the story of Grendel and his mother, or the story of the dragon, or both stories, were originally told of the son of Scyld, and only afterwards transferred to the Geatic hero. This has indeed been generally accepted, almost from the beginning of



Beowulf criticism<sup>1</sup>,) Yet, though possible enough, it does not admit of any demonstration

Now Beowulf, son of Scyld<sup>2</sup>, clearly corresponds to a Beow or Beaw, in the West Saxon genealogy) In this genealogy Beow is always connected with Scyld and Scef) and in some versions the relations are identical with those given in *Beowulf*: Beow, son of Scyld, son of Scef, in the genealogies<sup>2</sup>, corresponding to Beowulf, son of Scyld Scefing, in our poem Hence arose the further speculation of many scholars that the hero who slays the monsters was originally called, not Beowulf, but Beow, and that he was identical with the hero in the West Saxon pedigree, in other words, that the original story was of a hero Beow (son of Scyld) who slew a monster and a dragon and that this adventure was only subsequently transferred to Beowulf, prince of the Geatas)

This is a theory based upon a theory, and some confirmation may reasonably be asked, before it is entertained. As to the dragon-slaying, the confirmatory evidence is open to extreme doubt It is dealt with in Section VII (Beowulf-Frotho), below. As to Grendel, one such piece of confirmation there is The conquering Angles and Saxons seem to have given the names of their heroes to the lands they won in England: some such names—'Wade's causeway,' 'Weyland's smithy'—have survived to modern times The evidence of the Anglo-Saxon charters shows that very many which have now been lost existed in England prior to the Conquest Now in a Wiltshire charter of the year 931, we have *Bēowan hammes hecgan* mentioned not far from a *Grendles mere* This has been claimed as evidence that the story of Grendel, with Beow as his adversary, was localized in Wiltshire in the reign of Athelstan, and perhaps had been localized there since the settlement four centuries previously. Until recently this was accepted as definitely

<sup>1</sup> Kemble, *Beowulf*, *Postscript* ix, followed by Mullenhoff, etc So, lately, Chadwick (*H A* 126) cf also Sievers ('Beowulf und Saxo' in the *Berichte d k sachs Gesell d Wissenschaften*, 1895, pp 180-88), Bradley in *Encyc Brit* III, 761, Boer, *Beowulf*, 135 See also Olrik, *Danmarks Heltedigtning*, I, 246 For further discussion see below, Appendix (A)

<sup>2</sup> *Beo—Scyld—Scef* in Ethelwerd · *Beowulf—Sceldrus—Sceaf* in William of Malmesbury But in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* five generations intervene between Scef and his descendant Scyldwa, father of Beaw

proving that the Beowulf-Grendel story was derived from an ancient Beow-myth. Yet one such instance of name-association is not conclusive. We cannot leave out of consideration the possibility of its being a mere chance coincidence, especially considering how large is the number of place names recorded in Old English charters. Of late, people have become more sceptical in drawing inferences from proper names, and quite recently there has been a tendency entirely to overlook the evidence of the charter, by way of making compensation for having hitherto overrated it.

All that can be said with certainty is that it is remarkable that a place named after Beowa, should be found in the immediate proximity of a "Grendel's lake," and that this fact supports the possibility, though it assuredly does not prove, that in the oldest versions of the tale the monster queller was named Beow, not Beowulf. But it is only a possibility, it is not grounded upon any real evidence.

These crucial references occur in a charter given by Athelstan at Luton, concerning a grant of land at Ham in Wiltshire to his thane Wulfgar. [See Burch, *Cartularium Saxonicum*, 1887, vol II, p 363.]

Ego Æðelstanus, rex Anglorum quandam telluris particulam meo fidelī ministro Wulfgaro in loco quem solicolae æt Hamme vocitant tribuo. Praedicta siquidem tellus his terminis circumcincta clarescit

ðonne norð ofer dūne on mēos-hlinc westeweardne, ðonne adūne on ðā yfre on bēowan hammes hecgan, on brēmeles sceagan easteweardne, ðonne on ðā blācan grāfan, ðonne norð be ðēm ondhēafdan to ðære scortan dic būtan ānan æcre, ðonne to fugelmere to ðān wege, on long weges to ottes forða, ðonon to wudumere, ðonne to ðære rūwan hecgan, ðæt on langan hangran, ðonne on grendles mere, ðonon on dyrnan geat

Ambiguous as this evidence is, I do not think it can be dismissed as it is by Lawrence (*Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxiv, 252) and Panzer (*Beowulf*, 397), who both say "How do we know that it is not the merest chance?" It may of course be chance, but this does not justify us in basing an argument upon the assumption that it is the merest chance. Lawrence continues "Suppose one were to set up a theory that there was a saga-relation between Scyld and Bikki, and offered as proof the passage in the charter for the year 917 in which there are mentioned, as in the same district, *scyldes treow* and *bican sell*. How much weight would this carry?"

The answer surely is that the occurrence of the two names together in the charter would, by itself, give no basis whatever for starting such a theory: but if, on other grounds, the theory were likely, then the occurrence of the two names together would certainly have some corroborative value. Exactly how much, it is impossible to say, because we cannot estimate the element of chance, and we cannot

be certain that the *grendel* and the *beowa* mentioned are identical with our Grendel and our Beowulf

Miller has argued [*Academy*, May 1894, p 396] that *grendles* is not a proper name here, but a common noun signifying "drain," and that *grendles mere* therefore means "cesspool."

Now "grindle" is found in modern dialect and even in Middle English<sup>1</sup> in the sense of "a narrow ditch" or "gutter," but I doubt if it can be proved to be an Old English word. Evidence would rather point to its being an East Anglian corruption of the much more widely spread *drindle*, or *dringle*, used both as a verb "to go slowly, to trickle," and as "a small trickling stream." And even if an O.E. *grendel* as a common noun meaning "gutter" were authenticated, it seems unlikely to me that places were named "the fen," "the mere," "the pit," "the brook"—"of the gutter." There is no ground whatever for supposing the existence of an O.E. *grendel*="sewer," or anything which would lead us to suppose *grendles mere* or *gryndeles sylle* to mean "cesspool." It is probable, considering what we know of the way in which the English settlers gave epic names to the localities around their settlements, that these places were named after Grendel because they seemed the sort of place where his story might be localized—like "Weyland's smithy" or "Wade's causeway"—and that the meaning is "Grendel's fen," "mere," "pit" or "brook."

Again, both Panzer and Lawrence suggest that the Beowa who gave his name to the *ham* may have been, not the hero, but "an ordinary mortal called after him". "some individual who lived in this locality." But, among the numerous English proper names recorded, can any instance be found of any individual named Beowa?

<sup>1</sup> "Item there is vii acres lond lying by the high weye toward the grendyll": *Bury Wills*, ed S Tymms (Camden Soc XLIX, 1850, p 31)

<sup>2</sup> I should hardly have thought it worth while to revive this old "cesspool" theory, were it not for the statement of Dr Lawrence that "Miller's argument that the word *grendel* here is not a proper name at all, that it means 'drain,' has never, to my knowledge, been refuted" (*Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxiv, 253)

Miller was a scholar whose memory should be revered, but the letter to the *Academy* was evidently written in haste. The only evidence which Miller produced for *grendel* standing alone as a common noun in Old English was a charter of 963 (Birch, 1103 vol III, p 336) *fanon forð eft on grendel þanon on clyst* *grendel* here, he asserted, meant "drain" and consequently *gryndeles sylle* and *grendles mere* in the other charters must mean "cesspool." But the locality of this charter of 963 is known (Clyst St Mary, a few miles east of Exeter), and the two words exist there as names of streams to this day—"thence again along the Greendale brook, thence along the river Clyst." The Grindle or Greendale brook is no sewer, but a stream some half dozen miles in length which "winds tranquilly through a rich tract of alluvial soil" (*Journal of the Archaeol Assoc* xxxix, 273), past three villages which bear the same name, Greendale, Greendale Barton and Higher Greendale, under Greendale Bridge and over the ford by Greendale Lane, to its junction with the Clyst. Why the existence of this charming stream should be held to justify the interpretation of *Grendel* or *Gryndel* as "drain" and *grendles mere* as "cesspool" has always puzzled me. Were a new Drayton to arise he might, in a new *Polyolbon*, introduce the nymph complaining of her hard lot at the hands of scholars in the Hesperides. I hope, when he next visits England, to conduct Dr Lawrence to make his apologies to the lady. Meantime a glance at the "six inch" ordnance map of Devon suffices to refute Miller's curious hypothesis.

And was it in accordance with the rules of Old English nomenclature to give to mortals the names of these heroes of the genealogies<sup>1</sup>?

Recent scepticism as to the "Beow-myth" has been largely due to the fact that speculation as to Beow had been carried too far. For example, because Beow appeared in the West Saxon genealogy, it had been assumed that the Beow-myth belonged essentially to the Angles and Saxons. Yet Beow would seem to have been also known among Scandinavians. For in somewhat later days Scandinavian genealogists, when they had made the acquaintance of the Anglo-Saxon pedigrees, noted that Beow had a Scandinavian counterpart in a hero whom they called Bjár<sup>2</sup>. That something was known in the north of this Bjár is proved by the *Kálfsvisa*, that same catalogue of famous heroes and their horses which we have already found giving us the counterparts of Onela and Eadgils. Yet this dry reference serves to show that Bjár must once have been sufficiently famous to have a horse specially his own<sup>3</sup>. Whether the fourteenth century Scandinavian who made Bjár the Northern equivalent of Beow was merely guessing, we unfortunately cannot tell. Most probably he was, for there is reason to think that the hero corresponding to Beow was named, not *Bjár*, but *Byggvir*<sup>4</sup>—a correspondence intelligible to modern philologists as in agreement with phonetic law, but naturally not obvious to an Icelandic genealogist. But however this may be, the assumption that Beow was peculiarly the hero of Angles and Saxons seems hardly justified.

<sup>1</sup> It is often asserted that the same Beowa appears as a witness to a charter (Müllenhoff, *Beowulf*, p. 8. Haak, *Zeugnisse zur altenglischen Heldenage*, 53). But this rests upon a misprint of Kemble (*C D S* v, 44). The name is really *Beoba* (Birch, *Cart Sax* i, 212).

<sup>2</sup> *Beaf er ver kollum Biar*, in the descent of Harold Fairhair from Adam, in *Flateyjarbók*, ed. Vigfússon and Unger, Christiania, 1859, i, 27. [The genealogy contains many names obviously taken from a ms. of the O E royal pedigrees, not from oral tradition, as is shown by the miswritings, e.g., *Beaf* for *Beaw*, owing to mistaking the O E *w* for *f*.] "This is no proof," Dr. Lawrence urges, "of popular acquaintance with Bjár as a Scandinavian figure" (*Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* xxiv, 246). But how are we to account for the presence of his name among a mnemonic list of some of the most famous warriors and their horses—mention along with heroes like Sigurd, Gunnar, Atli, Athils and Ah, unless Bjár was a well-known figure?

<sup>3</sup> *en Bjárr [reið] Kerti Kortr*, "short" (Germ. *Kurz*), if indeed we are so to interpret it, is hardly an Icelandic word, and seems strange as the name of a horse. Egilsson (*Lex. Poet.* 1860) suggests *kertr*, "erect," "with head high" (cf. Kahle in *I F* xiv, 164).

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix (A) below.

Again, since Beow is an ancestor of Woden, it was further assumed that he was an ancient god, and that in the story of his adventures we had to deal with a nature-myth of a divine deliverer who saved the people from Grendel and his mother, the personified powers of the stormy sea. It is with the name of Mullenhoff, its most enthusiastic and ablest advocate, that this "mythological theory" is particularly associated. That Grendel is fictitious no one, of course, would deny. But Mullenhoff and his school, in applying the term "mythical" to those portions of the *Beowulf* story for which no historical explanation could be found, meant that they enshrined nature-myths. They thought that those elements in heroic poetry which could not be referred back to actual fact must be traced to ancient stories in which were recorded the nation's belief about the sun and the gods about storms and seasons.

The different mythological explanations of Beowulf-Beowa and Grendel have depended mainly upon hazardous etymological explanations of the hero's name. The most popular is Mullenhoff's interpretation. Beaw is the divine helper of man in his struggle with the elements. Grendel represents the stormy North Sea of early spring, flooding and destroying the habitations of men, till the god rescues them. Grendel's mother represents the depths of the ocean. But in the autumn the power of the god wanes: the dragon personifies the coming of the wild weather: the god sinks in his final struggle to safeguard the treasures of the earth for his people<sup>1</sup>. Others, remembering that Grendel dwells in the fen, see in him rather a demon of the sea-marsh than of the sea itself: he is the pestilential swamp<sup>2</sup>, and the hero a wind which drives him away<sup>3</sup>. Or, whilst Grendel still represents the storms, his antagonist is a "Blitzheros"<sup>4</sup>. Others, whilst hardly ranking Beowulf as

<sup>1</sup> Mullenhoff derived Beaw from the root *bhū*, "to be, dwell, grow". Beaw therefore represented settled dwelling and culture. Mullenhoff's mythological explanation (*Zfd A* VII, 419, etc., *Beowulf*, I, etc.) has been largely followed by subsequent scholars, e.g., ten Brink (*Pauls Grdr* II, 533: *Beowulf*, 184), Symons (*Pauls Grdr* (2), III, 645-6) and, in general outline, E. H. Meyer (*Mythol. der Germanen*, 1903, 242).

<sup>2</sup> Laistner (*Nebelsagen*, 88, etc., 264, etc.), Kogel (*Zfd A*, XXXVII, 274. *Geschichte d. deut. Litt.* I, 1, 109), and Gölther (*Handbuch der germ. Mythologie*, 1895, 173) see in Grendel the demon of combined storm and pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> E. H. Meyer (*Germ. Mythol.* 1891, 299).

a god, still see an allegory in his adventures, and Grendel must be a personification either of an inundation<sup>1</sup>, or of the terror of the long winter nights<sup>2</sup>, or possibly of grinding at the mill, the work of the enslaved foe<sup>3</sup>.

Such explanations were till recently universally current: the instances given above might be increased considerably

(Sufficient allowance was not made for the influence upon heroic poetry of the simple popular folk-tale, a tale of wonder with no mythological or allegorical meaning. Now, of late years, there has been a tendency not only to recognize but even to exaggerate this influence to regard the hero of the folk-tale as the original and essential element in heroic poetry<sup>4</sup>. Though this is assuredly to go too far, it is but reasonable to recognize the fairy tale element in the O.E. epic.)

We have in *Beowulf* a story of giant-killing and dragon-slaying. Why should we construct a legend of the gods or a nature-myth to account for these tales? Why must Grendel or his mother represent the tempest, or the malaria, or the drear long winter nights? We know that tales of giant-killers and dragon-slayers have been current among the people of Europe for thousands of years. Is it not far more easy to regard the story of the fight between *Beowulf* and Grendel merely as a fairy tale, glorified into an epic<sup>5</sup>?

Those students who of late years have tried thus to elucidate the story of *Beowulf* and Grendel, by comparison with folk-tales, have one great advantage over Mullenhoff and the "mythological" school. The weak point of Mullenhoff's view was that the nature-myth of *Beow*, which was called in to explain the origin of the *Beowulf* story as we have it, was itself only an assumption, a conjectural reconstruction. But the various popular tales in which scholars have more recently tried to find parallels to *Beowulf* have this great merit, that

<sup>1</sup> Mogk (*Pauls Grdr* (2), III, 302) regards Grendel as a "water spirit"

<sup>2</sup> Boer (*Ark f nord Filol* XIX, 19)

<sup>3</sup> This suggestion is made (very tentatively) by Brandl, in *Pauls Grdr* (2), II, 1, 992

<sup>4</sup> This view has been enunciated by Wundt in his *Völkerpsychologie*, II, 1, 326, etc., 382. For a discussion see A. Heusler in *Berliner Sitzungsberichte*, XXXVII, 1909, pp 939-945

<sup>5</sup> Cf Lawrence in *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* XXIV, 265 etc., and Panzer's "*Beowulf*" throughout

they do indubitably exist And as to the first step—the parallel between *Beowulf* and the *Grettis saga*—there can, fortunately, be but little hesitation.

## SECTION II. THE SCANDINAVIAN PARALLELS— GRETTIR AND ORM.

The *Grettis saga* tells the adventures of the most famous of all Icelandic outlaws, Grettir the strong As to the historic existence of Grettir there is no doubt. we can even date the main events of his life, in spite of chronological inconsistencies, with some precision. But between the year 1031, when he was killed, and the latter half of the thirteenth century, when his saga took form, many fictitious episodes, derived from folk-lore, had woven themselves around his name Of these, one bears a great, if possibly accidental, likeness to the Grendel story: the second is emphatically and unmistakably the same story as that of Grendel and his mother In the first, Grettir stops at a farm house which is haunted by Glam, a ghost of monstrous stature. Grettir awaits his attack alone, but, like Beowulf, lying down Glam's entry and onset resemble those of Grendel when Grettir closes with him he tries to get out. They wrestle the length of the hall, and break all before them. Grettir supports himself against anything that will give him foothold, but for all his efforts he is dragged as far as the door There he suddenly changes his tactics, and throws his whole weight upon his adversary. The monster falls, undermost, so that Grettir is able to draw, and strike off his head; though not till Glam has laid upon Grettir a curse which drags him to his doom

The second story—the adventure of Grettir at Sandhaugar (Sandheaps)—begins in much the same way as that of Grettir and Glam Grettir is staying in a haunted farm, from which first the farmer himself and then a house-carl have, on two successive Yuletides, been spirited away As before, a light burns in the room all night, and Grettir awaits the attack alone, lying down, without having put off his clothes. As before, Grettir and his assailant wrestle down the room, breaking all

in their way. But this time Grettir is pulled out of the hall, and dragged to the brink of the neighbouring gorge. Here, by a final effort, he wrenches a hand free, draws, and hews off the arm of the ogress, who falls into the torrent below

Grettir conjectures that the two missing men must have been pulled by the ogress into the gulf. This, after his experience, is surely a reasonable inference but Stein, the priest, is unconvinced. So they go together to the river, and find the side of the ravine a sheer precipice, it is ten fathom down to the water below the fall. Grettir lets down a rope the priest is to watch it. Then Grettir dives in "the priest saw the soles of his feet, and then knew no more what had become of him." Grettir swims under the fall and gets into the cave, where he sees a giant sitting by a fire. the giant aims a blow at him with a weapon with a wooden handle ("such a weapon men then called a *hefir-sax*") Grettir hews it asunder. The giant then grasps at another sword hanging on the wall of the cave, but before he can use it Grettir wounds him. Stein, the priest, seeing the water stained with blood from this wound, concludes that Grettir is dead, and departs home, lamenting the loss of such a man. "But Grettir let little space come between his blows till the giant lay dead." Grettir finds the bones of the two dead men in the cave, and bears them away with him to convince the priest but when he reaches the rope and shakes it, there is no reply, and he has to climb up, unaided. He leaves the bones in the church porch, for the confusion of the priest, who has to admit that he has failed to do his part faithfully.

Now if we compare this with *Beowulf*, we see that in the Icelandic story much is different for example, in the *Grettis saga* it is the female monster who raids the habitation of men, the male who stays at home in his den. In this the *Grettis saga* probably represents a corrupt tradition. for, that the female should remain at home whilst the male searches for his prey, is a rule which holds good for devils as well as for men<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The tradition of "the devil and his dam" resembles that of Grendel and his mother in its coupling together the home-keeping female and the roving male. See E. Lehmann, "Fandens Oldemor" in *Dania*, viii, 179-194, a paper which has been undeservedly neglected in the *Beowulf* bibliographies. But the



The change was presumably made in order to avoid the difficulty—which the *Beowulf* poet seems also to have realized—that after the male has been slain, the rout of the female is felt to be a deed of less note—something of an anti-climax<sup>1</sup>

The sword on the wall, also, which in the *Beowulf*-story is used by the hero, is, in the *Grettir*-story, used by the giant in his attack on the hero.

But that the two stories are somehow connected cannot be disputed. Apart from the general likeness, we have details such as the escape of the monster after the loss of an arm, the fire burning in the cave, the *heftu-sax*, a word which, like its old English equivalent (*hæft-mēce*, *Beowulf*, 1457), is found in this story only, and the strange reasoning of the watchers that the blood-stained water must necessarily be due to the hero's death<sup>2</sup>

Now obviously such a series of resemblances cannot be the result of an accident. Either the *Grettir*-story is derived directly or indirectly from the *Beowulf* epic, more or less as we have it, or both stories are derived from one common earlier source. The scholars who first discovered the resemblance believed that both stories were independently derived from one original<sup>3</sup>. This view has generally been endorsed by later investigators, but not universally<sup>4</sup>. And this is one of the questions which the student cannot leave open, because our view of the origin of the *Grendel*-story will have to depend largely upon the view we take as to its connection with the episode in the *Grettis saga*.

If this episode be derived from *Beowulf*, then we have an interesting literary curiosity, but nothing further. But if it is

devil beats his dam (cf *Piers Plowman*, C-text, xxi, 284) conduct of which one cannot imagine Grendel guilty. See too Lehmann in *Arch f. Religionswiss.* viii, 411-30. Panzer, *Beowulf*, 130, 137, etc. Klaeber in *Anglia*, xxxvi, 188.

<sup>1</sup> Cf *Beowulf*, ll 1282-7.

<sup>2</sup> There are other coincidences which may be the result of mere chance. In each case, before the adventure with the giants, the hero proves his strength by a feat of endurance in the ice-cold water. And, at the end of the story, the hero in each case produces, as evidence of his victory, a trophy with a runic inscription: in *Beowulf* an engraved sword-hilt, in the *Grettis saga* bones and a "rune-staff".

<sup>3</sup> Vigfússon, *Corp. Poet. Boreale*, ii, 502. Bugge, *P. B. B.* xii, 58.

<sup>4</sup> Boer, for example, believes that *Beowulf* influenced the *Grettis saga* (*Grettis saga*, Introduction, xliii), so, tentatively, Olrik (*Helteðingning*, i, 248).

independently derived from a common source, then the episode in the *saga*, although so much later, may nevertheless contain features which have been obliterated or confused or forgotten in the *Beowulf* version. In that case the story, as given in the *Grettis saga*, would be of great weight in any attempt to reconstruct the presumed original form of the *Grendel*-story.

The evidence seems to me to support strongly the view of the majority of scholars—that the *Grettir*-episode is not derived from *Beowulf* in the form in which that poem has come down to us, but that both come from one common source.

It is certain that the story of the monster invading a dwelling of men and rendering it uninhabitable, till the adventurous deliverer arrives, did not originate with Hrothgar and Heorot. It is an ancient and widespread type of story, of which one version is localized at the Danish court. When therefore we find it existing, independently of its Danish setting, the presumption is in favour of this being a survival of the old independent story. Of course it is conceivable that the Hrothgar-Heorot setting might have been first added, and subsequently stripped off again so clean that no trace of it remains. But it seems going out of our way to assume this, unless we are forced to do so<sup>1</sup>.

Again, it is certain that these stories—like all the subject-matter of the Old English epic—did not originate in England, but were brought across the North Sea from the old home. And that old home was in the closest connection, so far as the passage to and fro of story went, with Scandinavian lands. Nothing could be intrinsically more probable than that a story, current in ancient Angel and carried thence to England, should also have been current in Scandinavia, and thence have been carried to Iceland.

Other stories which were current in England in the eighth century were also current in Scandinavia in the thirteenth. Yet this does not mean that the tales of Hroar and Rolf, or of Athuls and Ali, were borrowed from English epic accounts of Hrothgar and Hrothulf, or Eadgils and Onela. They were part of the common inheritance—as much so as the strong verbs

<sup>1</sup> For this argument and the following, cf. Schuck, *Studier i Beowulfssagan*, 21

or the alliterative line. Why then, contrary to all analogy, should we assume a literary borrowing in the case of the *Beowulf-Grettir*-story? The compiler of the *Grettis saga* could not possibly have drawn his material from a MS of *Beowulf*<sup>1</sup>: he could not have made sense of a single passage. He conceivably *might* have drawn from traditions *derived* from the Old English epic. But it is difficult to see how. Long before his time these traditions had for the most part been forgotten in England itself. One of the longest lived of all, that of Offa, is heard of for the last time in England at the beginning of the thirteenth century. That a Scandinavian sagaman at the end of the century could have been in touch, in any way, with Anglo-Saxon epic tradition seems on the whole unlikely. The Scandinavian tradition of Offa, scholars are now agreed<sup>2</sup>, was not borrowed from England, and there is no reason why we should assume such borrowing in the case of Grettir.

The probability is, then, considerable, that the *Beowulf*-story and the *Grettir*-story are independently derived from one common original.

And this probability would be confirmed to a certainty if we should find that features which have been confused and half obliterated in the O.E. story become clear when we turn to the Icelandic. This argument has lately been brought forward by Dr Lawrence in his essay on "The Haunted Mere in *Beowulf*"<sup>3</sup>. Impressive as the account of this mere is, it does not convey any very clear picture. Grendel's home seems sometimes to be in the sea. and again it seems to be amid marshes, moors and fens, and again it is "where the mountain torrent goes down under the darkness of the cliffs—the water below the ground (i.e. beneath overhanging rocks)."

This last account agrees admirably with the landscape depicted in the *Grettis saga*, and the gorge many fathoms deep through which the stream rushes, after it has fallen over the precipice; not so the other accounts. These descriptions are

<sup>1</sup> Even assuming that a MS of *Beowulf* had found its way to Iceland, it would have been unintelligible. This is shown by the absurd blunders made when Icelanders borrowed names from the O.E. genealogies.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Olrik, *Af n. F.*, viii (N.F. iv), 368-75, and Chadwick, *Origin*, 125-6.

<sup>3</sup> *Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* xxvii, 208 *etc.*

no faintest trace of having ever possessed any Danish heroic setting.

Turning back to the *Saga of Rolf Kraki*, we do find against that Danish setting a figure, that of the hero Bothvar Bjarki, bearing a very remarkable resemblance to Beowulf

Bjarki, bent on adventure, leaves the land of the Gautar (Gotar), where his brother is king, and reaches Leire, where Rolf, the king of the Danes, holds his court, [just as Beowulf, bent on adventure, leaves the land of the Geatas (Gotar) where his uncle is king, and reaches Heorot, where Hrothgar and Hrothulf (Rolf) hold court]

Arrived at Leire, Bjarki takes under his protection the despised coward Hott, whom Rolf's retainers have been wont to bully. The champions at the Danish court [in *Beowulf* one of them only—Unferth] prove quarrelsome, and they assail the hero during the feast, in the *Saga* by throwing bones at him, in *Beowulf* only by bitter words. The hero in each case replies, in kind, with such effect that the enemy is silenced.

But despite the fame and splendour of the Danish court, it has long been subject to the attacks of a strange monster<sup>1</sup>—a winged beast whom no iron will bite [just as Grendel is immune from swords<sup>2</sup>] Bjarki [like Beowulf<sup>3</sup>] is scornful at the inability of the Danes to defend their own home: "if one beast can lay waste the kingdom and the cattle of the king" He goes out to fight with the monster *by night*, accompanied only by Hott. He tries to draw his sword, but the sword is fast in its sheath: he tugs, the sword comes out, and he slays the beast with it. This seems a most pointless incident taken in connection with the supposed invulnerability of the foe, it looks like the survival of some episode in which the hero was unwilling [as in Beowulf's fight with Grendel<sup>4</sup>] or unable [as in Beowulf's fight with Grendel's mother<sup>5</sup>] to slay the foe

<sup>1</sup> The attacks have taken place at Yule for two successive years, exactly as in the *Grettis saga*. [In *Beowulf* it is, of course, "twelve winters" (l. 147)] Is this mere accident, or does the *Grettis saga* here preserve the original time limit, which has been exaggerated in *Beowulf*? If so, we have another point of resemblance between the *Saga of Rolf Kraki* and the earliest version of the *Beowulf*-story

<sup>2</sup> *Beowulf*, ll. 801-5.

<sup>4</sup> *Beowulf*, l. 679

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Beowulf*, ll. 590-606

<sup>5</sup> *Beowulf*, ll. 1508-9, 1524

with his sword. Bjarki then compels the terrified coward Hott to drink the monster's blood. Hott forthwith becomes a valiant champion, second only to Bjarki himself. The beast is then propped up as if still alive when it is seen next morning the king calls upon his retainers to play the man, and Bjarki tells Hott that now is the time to clear his reputation. Hott demands first the sword, *Gullinhjalti*, from Rolf, and with this he slays the dead beast a second time. King Rolf is not deceived by this trick; yet he rejoices that Bjarki has not only himself slain the monster, but changed the cowardly Hott into a champion, he commands that Hott shall be called *Hjalti*, after the sword which has been given him. We are hardly justified in demanding logic in a wild tale like this, or one might ask how Rolf was convinced of Hott's valour by what he knew to be a piece of stage management on the part of Bjarki. But, however that may be, it is remarkable that in *Beowulf* also the monster Grendel, though proof against all ordinary weapons, is smitten *when dead* by a magic sword of which the *golden hilt*<sup>1</sup> is specially mentioned.

In addition to the undeniable similarity of the stories of these heroes, a certain similarity of name has been claimed. That *Bjarki* is not etymologically connected with *Bēowulf* or *Bēow* is clear but if we are to accept the identification of Beowulf and Beow, remembering that the Scandinavian equivalent of the latter is said to be *Bjár*, the resemblance to *Bjarki* is obvious. Similarity of sound might have caused one name to be substituted for another<sup>2</sup>. This argument obviously depends upon the identification *Bēow* = *Bjár*, which is extremely doubtful it will be argued below that it is more likely that *Bēow* = *Byggvir*<sup>3</sup>.

But force remains in the argument that the name *Bjarki* (little bear) is very appropriate to a hero like the Beowulf of

<sup>1</sup> It is only in this adventure that Rolf carries the sword *Gullinhjalti*. His usual sword, as well known as Arthur's Excalibur, was *Skofnungr*. For *Gyldenhiit*, whether descriptive, or proper noun, see *Beowulf*, 1677.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Symons in *Pauls Grdr* (2) III, 649. Zuge aus dem angelschen Mythos von Bēaw-Biar (Biarr oder Bjári, s. Symons *Lieder der Edda*, I, 222) wurden auf den dänischen Sagenhelden (Boðvarr) Bjarki durch Ähnlichkeit der Namen veranlasst, übertragen. Cf. too, Heusler in *A f d A* xxx, 32.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 87 and Appendix (A) below.

our epic, who crushes or hugs his foe to death instead of using his sword; even if we do not accept explanations which would interpret the name "Beowulf" itself as a synonym for "Bear"

It is scarcely to be wondered at, then, that most critics have seen in Bjarki a Scandinavian parallel to Beowulf. But serious difficulties remain. There is in the Scandinavian story a mass of detail quite unparalleled in *Beowulf*, which overshadows the resemblances. Bjarki's friendship, for example, with the coward Hott or Hjalti has no counterpart in *Beowulf*. And Bjarki becomes a retainer of King Rolf and dies in his service, whilst Beowulf never comes into direct contact with Hrothulf at all, the poet seems to avoid naming them together. Still, it is quite intelligible that the story should have developed on different lines in Scandinavia from those which it followed in England, till the new growths overshadowed the original resemblance, without obliterating it. After nearly a thousand years of independent development discrepancies must be expected. It would not be a reasonable objection to the identity of *Gullnhjalti* with *Gyldenhiilt*, that the word *hiilt* had grown to have a rather different meaning in Norse and in English; subsequent developments do not invalidate an original resemblance if the points of contact are really there.

But, allowing for this independent growth in Scandinavia, we should naturally expect that the further back we traced the story the greater the resemblance would become.

This brings us to the second, serious difficulty. that, when we turn from the *Saga of Rolf Kraki*—belonging in its present form perhaps to the early fifteenth century—to the pages of Saxo Grammaticus, who tells the same tale more than two centuries earlier, the resemblance, instead of becoming stronger, almost vanishes. Nothing is said of Bjarki coming from Gautland, or indeed of his being a stranger at the Danish court. nothing is said of the monster having paid previous visits, visits repeated till king Rolf, like Hrothgar, has to give up all attempt at resistance, and submit to its depredations. The monster, instead of being a troll, like Grendel, becomes a commonplace bear. All Saxo tells us is that "He [Biarco, i.e. Bjarki] met a great bear in a thicket and slew it with a spear, and bade his

comrade Ialto [i. e. Hjalti] place his lips to the beast and drink its blood as it flowed, that he might become stronger."

Hence the Danish scholar, Axel Olrik, in the best and most elaborate discussion of Bjarki and all about him, has roundly denied any connection between his hero and Beowulf. He is astonished at the slenderness of the evidence upon which previous students have argued for relationship. "Neither Beowulf's wrestling match in the hall, nor in the fen, nor his struggle with the fire-drake has any real identity, but when we take a little of them all we can get a kind of similarity with the latest and worst form of the Bjarki saga<sup>1</sup>." The development of Saxo's bear into a winged monster, "the worst of trolls," Olrik regards as simply in accordance with the usual heightening, in later Icelandic, of these early stories of struggles with beasts, and of this he gives a parallel instance.

Some Icelandic ballads on Bjarki (the *Bjarka rimur*), which were first printed in 1904, were claimed by Olrik as supporting his contention. These ballads belong to about the year 1400. Yet, though they are thus in date and dialect closely allied to the *Saga of Rolf Kraki* and remote from Saxo Grammaticus, they are so far from supporting the tradition of the *Saga* with regard to the monster slain, that they represent the foe first as a man-eating she-wolf, which is slain by Bjarki, then as a grey bear [as in Saxo], which is slain by Hjalti after he has been compelled to drink the blood of the she-wolf. We must therefore give up the winged beast as mere later elaboration, for if the Bjarki ballads in a point like this support Saxo, as against the *Saga* which is so closely connected with them by its date and Icelandic tongue, we must admit Saxo's version here to represent, beyond dispute, the genuine tradition.

Accordingly the attempt which has been made to connect Bjarki's winged monster with Beowulf's winged dragon goes overboard at once. But such an attempt ought never to have been made at all. The parallel is between Bjarki and the Beowulf-Grendel episode, not between Bjarki and the Beowulf-dragon episode, which ought to be left out of consideration. And the monstrous bear and the wolf of the *Rimur* are not so

<sup>1</sup> *Hættedagting*, I, 1903, 135-6

dissimilar from Grendel, with his bear-like hug, and Grendel's mother, the 'sea-wolf'<sup>1</sup>

The likeness between Beowulf and Bjarki lies, not in the wingedness or otherwise of the monsters they overthrow, but in the similarity of the position—in the situation which places the most famous court of the North, and its illustrious king, at the mercy of a ravaging foe, till a chance stranger from Gautland brings deliverance. And here the *Rimur* support, not Saxo, but the *Saga*, though in an outworn and faded way. In the *Rimur* Bjarki is a stranger come from abroad. the bear has made previous attacks upon the king's folds.

Thus, whilst we grant the wings of the beast to be a later elaboration, it does not in the least follow that other features in which the *Saga* differs from Saxo—the advent of Bjarki from Gautland, for instance—are also later elaboration.

And we must be careful not to attach too much weight to the account of Saxo merely because it is earlier in date than that of the *Saga*. The presumption is, of course, that the earlier form will be the more original. but just as a late manuscript will often preserve, amidst its corruptions, features which are lost in much earlier manuscripts, so will a tradition. Saxo's accounts are often imperfect<sup>2</sup>. And in this particular instance, there is a want of coherency and intelligibility in Saxo's account, which in itself affords a strong presumption that it is imperfect.

What Saxo tells us is this

At which banquet, when the champions were rioting with every kind of wantonness, and flinging knuckle-bones at a certain Ialto [Hjalte] from all sides, it happened that his messmate Biarco [Bjarki] through the bad aim of the thrower received a severe blow on the head. But Biarco, equally annoyed by the injury and the insult, sent the bone back to the thrower, so that he twisted the front of his head to the back and the back to the front, punishing the cross-grain of the man's temper by turning his face round about.

But who were this "certain Hjalte" and Bjarki? There seems to be something missing in the story. The explanation [which Saxo does not give us, but the *Saga* does] that Bjarki has come from afar and taken the despised Hott-Hjalte under his

<sup>1</sup> *Beowulf*, 1518

<sup>2</sup> See Heusler in *Z f d A* XLVIII, 62



protection, seems to be necessary. Why was Hjalti chosen as the victim, at whom missiles were to be discharged? Obviously [though Saxo does not tell us so], because he was the butt of the mess. And if Bjarki had been one of the mess for many hours, his messmates would have known him too well to throw knuckle-bones either at him or his friend. This is largely a matter of personal feeling, but Saxo's account seems to me pointless, till it is supplemented from the *Saga*<sup>1</sup>

And there is one further piece of evidence which seems to clinch the whole matter finally, though its importance has been curiously overlooked, by Panzer and Lawrence in their arguments for the identification, and by Olrik in his arguments to the contrary.

We have seen above how Beowulf "became a friend" to Eadgils, helping him in his expedition against King Onela of Sweden, and avenging, in "chill raids fraught with woe," *cealdum cearsidum*, the wrongs which Onela had inflicted upon the Geatas. We saw, too, that this expedition was remembered in Scandinavian tradition. "They had a battle on the ice of Lake Wener, there King Ah fell, and Athils had the victory. Concerning this battle there is much said in the *Skjoldunga saga*." The *Skjoldunga saga* is lost, but the Latin extracts from it give some information about this battle<sup>2</sup>. Further, an account of it is preserved in the *Bjarka rimur*, probably derived from the lost *Skjoldunga saga*. And the *Bjarka rimur* expressly mention Bjarki as helping Athils in this battle against Ah on the ice of Lake Wener<sup>3</sup>.

Olrik does not seem to allow for this at all, though of course aware of it. The other parallels between Bjarki and Beowulf • he believes to be mere coincidence. But is this likely?

To recapitulate. In old English tradition a hero comes from the land of the Geatas to the royal court of Denmark, where Hrothgar and Hrothulf hold sway. This hero is received in none too friendly wise by one of the retainers, but

<sup>1</sup> Cf. on this Heusler, *ZfdA* XLVIII, 64-5.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Skjoldunga saga*, cap. XII, and see Olrik, *Heltedigtning*, I, 201-5, *Bjarka rimur*, VIII.

<sup>3</sup> Similarly *Skáldskaparmál*, 41 (44).

puts his foe to shame, is warmly welcomed by the king, and slays by night a monster which has been attacking the Danish capital and against which the warriors of that court have been helpless. The monster is proof against all swords, yet its dead body is mutilated by a sword with a golden hilt. Subsequently this same hero helps King Eadgils of Sweden to overthrow Onela.

We find precisely the same situation in Icelandic tradition some seven centuries later, except that not Hrothgar and Hrothulf, but Hrothulf (Rolf) alone is represented as ruling the Danes, and the sword with the golden hilt has become a sword named "Golden-hilt." It is conceivable for a situation to have been reconstructed in this way by mere accident, just as it is conceivable that one player may have the eight or nine best trumps dealt him. But it does not seem advisable to base one's calculations, as Olrik does, upon such an accident happening.

The parallel of Bjarki and Beowulf seems to have been first noted by Gisl Brynjulfsson (*Antiquarisk Tidsskrift*, 1852-3, p 130). It has been often discussed by Sarrazin (*Beowulf Studien*, 13 etc., 47. *Anglia*, ix, 195 etc. *Engl. Stud.* xvi, 79 etc., xxiii, 242 etc., xxxv, 19 etc.). Sarrazin's over-elaborated parallels form a broad target for doubters: it must be remembered that a case, though it may be discredited, is not invalidated by exaggeration. The problem is of course noted in the Beowulf studies of Mullenhoff (55), Bugge (*P B B* xii, 55) and Boer (*Die Beowulf Sage*, II, in *Arkiv f. nord. filol.* xix, 44 etc.) and discussed at length and convincingly by Panzer (364-386) and Lawrence (*Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* xxiv, 1909, 222 etc.). The usual view which accepts some relationship is endorsed by all these scholars, as it is by Finnur Jónsson in his edition of the *Hrólfs Saga Kraka og Bjarkarímur* (København, 1904, p. xxii).

Ten Brink (185 etc.) denied any original connection, on the ground of the dissimilarity between *Beowulf* and the story given by Saxo. Any resemblances between *Beowulf* and the *Hrólfs Saga* he attributed to the influence of the English *Beowulf*-story upon the *Saga*.

For Olrik's emphatic denial of any connection at all, see *Danmarks Heltedigtning*, I, 134 etc. (This seems to have influenced Brandl, who expresses some doubt in *Pauls Grdr.* (2) II 1 993.) For arguments to the contrary, see Heusler in *A f d A* xxx, 32, and especially Panzer and Lawrence as above.

The parallel of *Gullinhylti* and *gyldenhilt* was first noted tentatively by Kluge (*Engl. Stud.* xxii, 145).

## SECTION IV. PARALLELS FROM FOLKLORE.

Hitherto we have been dealing with parallels to the Grendel story in written literature but a further series of parallels, although much more remote, is to be found in that vast store of old wives' tales which no one till the nineteenth century took the trouble to write down systematically, but which certainly go back to a very ancient period. One particular tale, that of the Bear's Son<sup>1</sup> (extant in many forms), has been instanced as showing a resemblance to the *Beowulf*-story. In this tale the hero, a young man of extraordinary strength, (1) sets out on his adventures, associating with himself various companions, (2) makes resistance in a house against a supernatural being, which his fellows have in vain striven to withstand, and succeeds in mishandling or mutilating him. (3) By the blood-stained track of this creature, or guided by him in some other manner, the hero finds his way to a spring, or hole in the earth, (4) is lowered down by a cord and (5) overcomes in the underworld different supernatural foes, amongst whom is often included his former foe, or very rarely the mother of that foe. Victory can often only be gained by the use of a magic sword which the hero finds below. (6) The hero is left treacherously in the lurch by his companions, whose duty it was to have drawn him up.

Now it may be objected, with truth, that this is not like the *Beowulf*-story, or even particularly like the *Grettir*-story. But the question is not merely whether it resembles these stories as we possess them, but whether it resembles the story which must have been the common origin of both. And we have only to try to reconstruct from *Beowulf* and from the *Grettis saga* a tale which can have been the common original of both, to see that it must be something extraordinarily like the folk-tale outlined above.

<sup>1</sup> Barensohn. Jean l'Ours. The name is given to the group because the hero is frequently (though by no means always) represented as having been brought up in a bear's den. The story summarized above is a portion of Panzer's "Type A." See Appendix (H), below.

For example, it is true that the departure of the Danes homeward because they believe that Beowulf has met his death in the water below, bears only the remotest resemblance to the deliberate treachery which the companions in the folk-tale mete out to the hero. But when we compare the *Grettir*-story, we see there that a real breach of trust is involved, for there the priest Stein leaves the hero in the lurch, and abandons the rope by which he should have drawn Grettir up. This can hardly be an innovation on the part of the composer of the *Grettis saga*, for he is quite well disposed towards Stein, and has no motive for wantonly attributing treachery to him. The innovation presumably lies in the *Beowulf*-story, where Hrothgar and his court are depicted in such a friendly spirit that no disreputable act can be attributed to them, and consequently Hrothgar's departure home must not be allowed in any way to imperil or inconvenience the hero. A comparison of the *Beowulf*-story with the *Grettir*-story leads then to the conclusion that in the oldest version those who remained above when the hero plunged below were guilty of some measure of disloyalty in ceasing to watch for him. In other words we see that the further we track the *Beowulf*-story back, the more it comes to resemble the folk-tale.

And our belief that there is some connection between the folk-tale and the original of *Beowulf* must be strengthened when we find that, by a comparison of the folk-tale, we are able to explain features in *Beowulf* which strike us as difficult and even absurd precisely as when we turn to a study of Shakespeare's sources we often find the explanation of things that puzzle us: we see that the poet is dealing with an unmanageable source, which he cannot make quite plausible. For instance, when Grendel enters Heorot he kills and eats • the first of Beowulf's retainers whom he finds no one tries to prevent him. The only explanation which the poet has to offer is that the retainers are all asleep<sup>1</sup>—strange somnolence on the part of men who are awaiting a hostile attack, which they expect will be fatal to them all<sup>2</sup>. And Beowulf at any rate is not asleep. Yet he calmly watches whilst his henchman is

<sup>1</sup> ll. 704, 729<sup>2</sup> ll. 691-6.

both killed and eaten and apparently, but for the accident that the monster next tackles Beowulf himself, he would have allowed his whole bodyguard to be devoured one after another.

But if we suppose the story to be derived from the folk-tale, we have an explanation. For in the folk-tale, the companions and the hero await the foe singly, in succession the turn of the hero comes last, after all his companions have been put to shame. But Beowulf, who is represented as having specially voyaged to Heorot in order to purge it, cannot leave the defence of the hall for the first night to one of his comrades. Hence the discomfiture of the comrade and the single-handed success of the hero have to be represented as simultaneous. The result is incongruous. Beowulf *has* to look on whilst his comrade is killed.

Again, both Beowulf and Grettir plunge in the water with a sword, and with the deliberate object of shedding the monster's blood. Why then should the watchers on the cliff above assume that the blood-stained water must necessarily signify the *hero's* death, and depart home? Why did it never occur to them that this deluge of blood might much more suitably proceed from the monster?

But we can understand this unreason if we suppose that the story-teller had to start from the deliberate and treacherous departure of the companions, whilst at the same time it was not to his purpose to represent the companions as treacherous. In that case some excuse *must* be found for them. and the blood-stained water was the nearest at hand<sup>1</sup>

Again, quite independently of the folk-tale, many *Beowulf* scholars have come to the conclusion that in the original version of the story the hero did not wait for a second attack from the mother of the monster he had slain, but rather, from a natural and laudable desire to complete his task, followed the monster's tracks to the mere, and finished him and his mother below. Many traits have survived which may conceivably point to an original version of the story in which Beowulf (or the figure corresponding to him) at once plunged down

<sup>1</sup> In the *Beowulf* it was even desirable, as explained above, to go further, and completely to exculpate the Danish watchers

in order to combat the foe corresponding to Grendel. There are unsatisfactory features in the story as it stands. For why, it might be urged, should the wrenching off of an arm have been fatal to so tough a monster? And why, it has often been asked, is the adversary under the water sometimes male, sometimes female? And why is it apparently the blood of Grendel, not of his mother, which discolours the water and burns up the sword, and the head of Grendel, not of his mother, which is brought home in triumph? These arguments may not carry much weight, but at any rate when we turn to the folk-tale we find that the adventure beneath the earth is the natural following up of the adventure in the house, not the result of any renewed attack.

In addition, there are many striking coincidences between individual versions or groups of the folk-tale on the one hand and the *Beowulf-Grettir* story on the other yet it is very difficult to know what value should be attached to these parallels, since there are many features of popular story which float around and attach themselves to this or that tale without any original connection, so that it is easy for the same trait to recur in *Beowulf* and in a group of folk-tales, without this proving that the stories as a whole are connected<sup>1</sup>

The hero of the Bear's son folk-tale is often in his youth unmanageable or lazy. This is also emphasized in the stories both of Grettir and of Orm and though such a feature was uncongenial to the courtly tone of *Beowulf*, which sought to depict the hero as a model prince, yet it is there<sup>2</sup>, even though only alluded to incidentally, and elsewhere ignored or even denied<sup>3</sup>.

Again, the hero of the folk-tale is very frequently (but not necessarily) either descended from a bear, nourished by a bear, or has some ursine characteristic. We see this recurring in certain traits of *Beowulf* such as his bear-like method of hugging

<sup>1</sup> From the controversial point of view Panzer has no doubt weakened his case by drawing attention to so many of these, probably accidental, coincidences. It gives the critic material for attack (cf. Boer, *Beowulf*, 14)

<sup>2</sup> ll. 2183 etc

<sup>3</sup> ll. 408-9

his adversary to death. Here again the courtly poet has not emphasized his hero's wildness<sup>1</sup>.

Again, there are some extraordinary coincidences in names, between the *Beowulf-Grettir* story and the folk-tale. These are not found in *Beowulf* itself, but only in the stories of Grettir and Orm. Yet, as the *Grettir*-episode is presumably derived from the same original as the *Beowulf*-episode, any original connection between it and the folk-tale involves such connection for *Beowulf* also. We have seen that in *Grettis saga* the priest Stein, as the unfaithful guardian of the rope which is to draw up the hero, seems to represent the faithless companions of the folktale. There is really no other way of accounting for him, for except on this supposition he is quite otiose and unnecessary to the *Grettir*-story: the saga-man has no use for him. And his name confirms this explanation, for in the folk-tale one of the three faithless companions of the hero is called the Stone-cleaver, *Steinhauer*, *Stenkløver*, or even, in one Scandinavian version, simply *Stein*<sup>2</sup>.

Again, the struggle in the *Grettis saga* is localized at Sandhaugar in Barthardal in Northern Iceland. Yet it is difficult to say why the saga-teller located the story there. The scenery, with the neighbouring river and mighty waterfall, is fully described but students of Icelandic topography assert that the neighbourhood does *not* at all lend itself to this description<sup>3</sup>. When we turn to the story of Orm we find it localized on the island Sandey. We are forced to the conclusion that the name belongs to the story, and that in some early version this was localized at a place called Sandhaug, perhaps at one of the numerous places in Norway of that name. Now turning to one of the Scandinavian versions of the folk-tale, we find that the descent into the earth and the consequent struggle is localized in *en stor sandhaug*<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> It comes out strongly in the *Byarki*-story.

<sup>2</sup> It can hardly be argued that Stein is mentioned because he was an historic character who in some way came into contact with the historic Grettir for in this case his descent would have been given, according to the usual custom in the sagas. (Cf. note to Boer's edition of *Grettis saga*, p. 233.)

<sup>3</sup> P. E. K. Kaalund, *Bidrag til en historisk-topografisk Beskrivelse af Island*, Kjøbenhavn, 1877, II, 151.

<sup>4</sup> The localization in *en stor sandhaug* is found in a version of the story to which Panzer was unable to get access (see p. 7 of his *Beowulf*, Note 2). A copy

On the other hand, it must be remembered that if a collection is made of some two hundred folk-tales, it is bound to contain, in addition to the essential kernel of common tradition, a vast amount of that floating material which tends to associate itself with this or that hero of story. Individual versions or groups of versions of the tale may contain features which occur also in the *Grendel*-story, without that being any evidence for primitive connection. Thus we are told how Grendel forces open the door of Heorot. In a Sicilian version of the folk-tale the doors spring open of themselves as the foe appears. This has been claimed as a parallel. But, as a sceptic has observed, the extraordinary thing is that of so slight a similarity (if it is entitled to be called a similarity) we should find only one example out of two hundred, and have to go to Sicily for that<sup>1</sup>

The parallel between the *Beowulf*-story and the "Bear's son" folk-tale had been noted by Laistner (*Das Rätsel der Sphinx*, Berlin, 1889, II, 22 etc.) but the prevalent belief that the *Beowulf*-story was a nature-myth seems to have prevented further investigation, on those lines till Panzer independently (p. 254) undertook his monumental work.

Yet there are other features in the folk-tale which are entirely unrepresented in the *Beowulf-Grettir* story. The hero of the folk-tale rescues captive princesses in the underworld (it is because they wish to rob him of this prize that his companions leave him below), he is saved by some miraculous helper, and finally, after adopting a disguise, puts his treacherous comrades to shame and weds the youngest princess. None of these elements<sup>2</sup> are to be found in the stories of *Beowulf*, *Grettir*, *Orm* or *Bjarki*, yet they are essential to the fairy tale<sup>3</sup>

is to be found in the University Library of Christiania, in a small book entitled *Nor, en Billedbog for den norske Ungdom*. Christiania, 1865 (*Norske Folke-Eventyr fortalte af P. C. Asbjørnsen*, pp. 65-128.)

The *sandhaug* is an extraordinary coincidence, if it is a mere coincidence. It cannot have been imported into the modern folk-tale from the *Grette saga*, for there is no superficial resemblance between the two tales.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Boer, *Beowulf*, 14.

<sup>2</sup> Yet both *Beowulf* and *Orm* are saved by divine help.

<sup>3</sup> Panzer exaggerates the case against his own theory when he quotes only six versions as omitting the princesses (p. 122). Such unanimity as this is hardly to be looked for in a collection of 202 kindred folk-tales. In addition to these six, the princesses are altogether missing, for example, in the versions which Panzer numbers 68, 69, 77: they are only faintly represented in other versions (e.g. 76). Nevertheless the rescue of the princesses may be regarded as the most essential element in the tale.



So that to speak of *Beowulf* as a version of the fairy tale is undoubtedly going too far. All we can say is that some early story-teller took, from folk-tale, those elements which suited his purpose, and that a tale, containing many leading features found in the "Bear's son" story, but omitting many of the leading motives of that story, came to be told of Beowulf and of Grettar<sup>1</sup>.

#### SECTION V. SCEF AND SCYLD.

Our poem begins with an account of the might, and of the funeral, of Scyld Scefing, the ancestor of that Danish royal house which is to play so large a part in the story. After Scyld's death his retainers, following the command he had given them, placed their beloved prince in the bosom of a ship, surrounded by many treasures brought from distant lands, by weapons of battle and weeds of war, swords and byrnes. Also they placed a golden banner high over his head, and let the sea bear him away, with soul sorrowful and downcast. Men could not say for a truth, not the wisest of councillors, who received that burden.

Now there is much in this that can be paralleled both from the literature and from the archaeological remains of the North. Abundant traces have been found, either of the burial or of the burning of a chief within a ship. And we are told by different authorities of two ancient Swedish kings who, sorely wounded, and unwilling to die in their beds, had themselves placed upon ships, surrounded by weapons and the bodies of the slain. The funeral pyre was then lighted on the vessel, and the ship sent blazing out to sea. Similarly the dead body of Baldr was put upon his ship, and burnt.

Haki konungr fekk svá stór sár, at hann sá, at hans lífdagar mundu  
eigi langir verða, þá lét hann taka skeið, er hann átti, ok lét hlaða  
dauðum mönnum, ok vápnum, lét þá flytja út til hafs ok leggja stýri

<sup>1</sup> I cannot agree with Panzer when (p. 319) he suggests the possibility of the *Beowulf* and the *Grettur*-story having been derived independently from the folk-tale. For the two stories have many features in common which do not belong to the folk-tale. apart from the absence of the princesses we have the *hæft-méce* and the strange conclusion drawn by the watchers from the blood-stained water.

í lag ok draga upp segl, en leggja eld í tyrnið ok gera bál á skipinu, veðr stóts af landi, Haki var þá at kominn dauða eða dauðr, er hann var lagiðr á bálit; siglði skipit síðan loganda út í haf, ok var þetta allfrægt lengi síðan.

(King Haki was so sore wounded that he saw that his days could not be long. Then he had a warship of his taken, and loaded with dead men and weapons, had it carried out to sea, the rudder shipped, the sail drawn up, the fir-tree wood set alight, and a bale-fire made on the ship. The wind blew from the land. Haki was dead or nearly dead, when he was placed on the pyre. Then the ship sailed blazing out to sea; and that was widely famous for a long time after.)

*Ynglinga Saga*, Kap 23, in *Heimskringla*, udg af Finnur Jónsson, København, 1893, vol 1, p 43

The *Skjoldunga Saga* gives a story which is obviously connected with this. King Sigurd Ring in his old age asked in marriage the lady Alfsola, but her brothers scorned to give her to an aged man. War followed, and the brothers, knowing that they could not withstand the hosts of Sigurd, poisoned their sister before marching against him. In the battle the brothers were slain, and Sigurd badly wounded.

Qui, Alfsola funere allato, magnam navim mortuorum cadaveribus oneratam solus vivorum conscendit, seque et mortuam Alfsolam in puppi collocans navim pice, bitumine et sulphure incendi jubet; atque sublatus velis in altum, validis a continente impellentibus ventus, proram dirigit, simulque manus sibi violentas intulit, sese more majorum suorum regali pompa Odinum regem (id est inferos) invisere malle, quam mortis senectutis infirmitatem perpeti.

*Skjoldungasaga* : *Arngrim Jónssons udlog*, udgiven af Axel Olrik, Kjøbenhavn, 1894, Cap xxvii, p 50 [132]

So with the death of Baldr

En æsirnar tóku lík Baldrs ok fluttu til sævar. Hringhorni hét skip Baldrs, hann var allra skipa mestr, hann vildu goðin framm setja ok gera þar á bálfr Baldrs. Þá var borit út á skipit lík Baldrs. Óðinn lagiðr á bálit gullhring þann, er Draupnir heitir. Hestr Baldrs var leiddr á bálit með öllu reiði.

(But the gods took the body of Baldr and carried it to the sea-shore. Baldr's ship was named Hringhorni. It was the greatest of all ships and the gods sought to launch it, and to build the pyre of Baldr on it. Then was the body of Baldr borne out on to the ship. Odin laid on the pyre the gold ring named Draupnir and Baldr's horse with all his trappings was placed on the pyre.)

*Snorra Edda Gylfaginning*, 48, udg af Finnur Jónsson, København, 1900

We are justified in rendering *setja skip fram* by "launch." Olrik (*Helteðingnang*, i, 250) regards Baldr's funeral as a case of the burning of a body in a ship on land. But it seems to me, as to Mr Chadwick (*Origin*, 287), that the natural meaning is that the ship was launched in the sea.

But the case of Scyld is not exactly parallel to these. The ship which conveyed Scyld out to sea was *not* set alight. And the words of the poet, though dark, seem to imply that it was intended to come to land somewhere. "None could say who received that freight."

Further, Scyld not merely departed over the waves—he had in the first instance come over them “Not with less treasure did they adorn him,” says the poet, speaking of the funeral rites, “than did those who at the beginning sent him forth alone over the waves, being yet a child”

Scyld Scefing then, like Tennyson’s Arthur, comes from the unknown and departs back to it.

The story of the mysterious coming over the water was not confined to Scylda. It meets us in connection with King Scef, who was regarded, at any rate from the time of Alfred, and possibly much earlier, as the remotest ancestor of the Wessex kings. Ethelwerd, a member of the West Saxon royal house, who compiled a bombastic Latin chronicle towards the end of the tenth century, traces back the pedigree of the kings of Wessex to Scyld and his father Scef. “This Scef,” he says, “came to land on a swift boat, surrounded by arms, in an island of the ocean called Scani, when a very young child. He was unknown to the people of that land, but was adopted by them as if of their kin, well cared for, and afterwards elected king<sup>1</sup>.” Note here, firstly, that the story is told, not of Scyld Scefing, but of Scef, father of Scyld. Secondly, that although Ethelwerd is speaking of the ancestor of the West Saxon royal house, he makes him come to land and rule, not in the ancient homeland of continental Angeln, but in the “island of Scani,” which signifies what is now the south of Sweden, and perhaps also the Danish islands<sup>2</sup>—that same land of *Scedenig* which is mentioned in *Beowulf* as the realm of Scyld. The tone of the narrative is, so far as we can judge from Ethelwerd’s dry summary, entirely warlike. Scef is surrounded by weapons.

In the twelfth century the story is again told by William of Malmesbury. “Sceldius was the son of Sceaf. He, they say, was carried as a small boy in a boat without any oarsman to a certain isle of Germany called Scandza, concerning which

<sup>1</sup> Ipse Scef cum uno dromone advectus est in insula Oceani, quae dicitur Scani, armis circumdatus, eratque valde recens puer, & ab incolis illius terrae ignotus, attamen ab eis suscipitur, & ut familiarem diligenti animo eum custodierunt, & post in regem eligunt.

Ethelwerdus, III, 3, in Savile’s *Rerum Anglicarum Scriptores post Bedam* Francofurti, 1601, p. 842.

<sup>2</sup> See Chadwick, *Origin*, 259–60.

Jordanes, the historian of the Goths, speaks. He was sleeping, and a handful of corn was placed at his head, from which he was called 'Sheaf.' He was regarded as a wonder by the folk of that country and carefully nurtured; when grown up he ruled in a town then called Slaswic, and now Harthebi—that region is called ancient Anglia<sup>1</sup>”

William of Malmesbury was, of course, aware of Ethelwerd's account, and may have been influenced by it. Some of his variations may be his own invention. The substitution of the classical form *Scandza* for Ethelwerd's *Scani* is simply a change from popular to learned nomenclature, and enables the historian to show that he has read something of Jordanes. The alteration by which Malmesbury makes Scef, when grown up, rule at Schleswig in ancient Angel, may again be his own work—a variant added in order to make Scef look more at home in an Anglo-Saxon pedigree.

But William of Malmesbury was, as we shall see later, prone to incorporate current ballads into his history, and after allowing for what he may have derived from Ethelwerd, and what he may have invented, there can be no doubt that many of the additional details which he gives are genuine popular poetry. Indeed, whilst the story of Scyld's funeral is very impressive in *Beowulf*, it is in William's narrative that the story of the child coming over the sea first becomes poetic.

Now since even the English historians connected this tale with the Danish territory of *Scani*, *Scandza*, we should expect to find it again on turning to the records of the Danish royal house. And we do find there, generally at the head of the pedigree<sup>2</sup>, a hero—Skjold—whose name corresponds, and whose relationship to the later Danish kings shows him to be the same, as the *Scyld Scefing* of *Beowulf*. But neither Saxo Grammaticus, nor any other Danish historian, knows anything of

<sup>1</sup> Sceldrus [fuit filius] Scef. Iste, ut ferunt, in quendam insulam Germaniae Scandzam, de qua Jordanes, historiographus Gothorum, loquitur, appulsus navi sine remige, puerulus, posito ad caput frumenti manipulo, dormiens, ideoque Scef nuncupatus, ab hominibus regionis illius pro miraculo exceptus et sedulo nutritus adulta aetate regnavit in oppido quod tunc Slaswic, nunc vero Harthebi appellatur. Est autem regio illa Anglia vetus dicta.

William of Malmesbury, *De Gestis Regum Anglorum* Lib. II, § 116, vol. I, p. 121, ed. Stubbs, 1887.

<sup>2</sup> Although Saxo Grammaticus has provided some even earlier kings.

Skjold having come in his youth or returned in his death over the ocean.

How are we to harmonize these accounts?

*Beowulf* and Ethelwerd agree in representing the hero as "surrounded by arms", William of Malmesbury mentions only the sheaf; the difference is weighty, for presumably the spoils which the hero brings with him from the unknown, or takes back thither, are in harmony with his career. *Beowulf* and Ethelwerd seem to show the warrior king, William of Malmesbury seems rather to be telling the story of a semi-divine foundling, who introduces the tillage of the earth<sup>1</sup>

In *Beowulf* the child is Scyld Scefing, in Ethelwerd and William of Malmesbury he is Scef, father of Scyld

*Beowulf*, Ethelwerd and William of Malmesbury agree in connecting the story with *Scedenig*, *Scam* or *Scandza*, yet the two historians and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* all make Scef the ancestor of the West Saxon house. Yet we have no evidence that the English were regarded as having come from Scandinavia.

The last problem admits of easy solution. In heathen times the English traced the pedigree of most of their kings to Woden, and stopped there. For higher than that they could not go. But a Christian poet or genealogist, who had no belief in Woden as a god, would regard the All Father as a man—a mere man who, by magic powers, had made the heathen believe he was a god. To such a Christian pedigree-maker Woden would convey no idea of finality, he would feel no difficulty in giving this human Woden any number of ancestors. Wishing to glorify the pedigree of his king, he would add any other distinguished and authentic genealogies, and the obvious place for these would be at the end of the line, i.e. above Woden. Hence we have in some quite early (not West Saxon) pedigrees, five names given as ancestors of Woden. These five names end in Geat or Geata, who was apparently regarded as a god, and was possibly Woden under another name<sup>2</sup>. Somewhat later, in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, under

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Mullenhoff in *Z f d A* VII, 413

<sup>2</sup> In *Grimnismál*, 54. Odin gives *Gautr* as one of his names.

the year 855, we have a long version of the West Saxon pedigree with yet nine further names above Geat, ending in Sceaf. Sceaf is described as a son of Noah, and so the pedigree is carried back to Adam, 25 generations in all beyond Woden<sup>1</sup>. But it is rash to assume with Mullenhoff that, because Sceaf comes at the head<sup>2</sup> of this English pedigree, Sceaf was therefore essentially an English hero. All these later stages above Woden look like the ornate additions of a later compiler. Some of the figures, Finn, Sceldwa, Heremod, Sceaf himself, we have reason to identify with the primitive heroes of other nations.

The genealogist who finally made Sceaf into a son born to Noah in the ark, and then carried the pedigree nine stages further back through Noah to Adam, merely made the last of a series of accretions. It does not follow that, because he made them ancestors of the English king, this compiler regarded Noah, Enoch and Adam as Englishmen. Neither need he have so regarded Sceaf or Scyld<sup>3</sup> or Beaw. In fact—and this has constantly been overlooked—the authority for Sceaf, Scyld and Beaw as Anglo-Saxon heroes is but little stronger than the authority for Noah and Adam in that capacity. The pedigree in Ethelwerd stops at Scef, but otherwise there is no version which goes beyond Geat except that which goes up to Adam. Scyld, Beaw, Sceaf, Noah and Adam as heroes of English mythology are all alike doubtful.

We must be careful, however, to define what we mean when we regard these stages of the pedigree as doubtful. They are doubtful in so far as they are represented as standing above Woden in the Anglo-Saxon pedigree, because it is incredible that, in primitive and heathen times, Woden was credited with a dozen or more forefathers. The position of these names in the pedigree is therefore doubtful. But it is only their connection with the West Saxon house that is unauthentic. It does not follow that the names are, *per se*, unauthentic. On the contrary, it is because the genealogist had such implicit belief in the authenticity of the generations

<sup>1</sup> See below.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding, of course, the Hebrew names.

<sup>3</sup> *Scyld* appears as *Scyldwa*, *Sce(a)ldwa* in the *Chronicle*. The forms correspond.

from Noah to Adam that he could not rest satisfied with his West Saxon pedigree till he had incorporated these names. They are not West Saxon, but they are part of a tradition much more ancient than any pedigree of the West Saxon kings. And the argument which applies to the layer of Hebrew names between Noah and Adam applies equally to the layer of Germanic names between Woden and Sceaf. From whatever branch of the Germanic race the genealogist may have taken them, the fact that he placed them where he did in the pedigree is a proof of his veneration for them. But we must not without evidence claim them as West Saxon or Anglo-Saxon—we must not be surprised if evidence points to some of them being connected with other nations—as Heremod, for example, with the Danes<sup>1</sup>.

More difficult are the other problems. William of Malmesbury tells the story of Sceaf, with the attributes of a culture-hero: *Beowulf*, four centuries earlier, tells it of Scyld, a warrior hero. Ethelwerd tells it of Sceaf, but gives him the warrior attributes of Scyld<sup>2</sup> instead of the sheaf of corn.

The earlier scholars mostly agreed<sup>3</sup> in regarding Malmesbury's attribution of the story to Sceaf as the original and correct version of the story, in spite of its late date. As a representative of these early scholars we may take Mullenhoff<sup>4</sup>. Mullenhoff's love of mythological interpretation found ample scope in the story of the child with the sheaf, which he, with considerable reason, regarded as a "culture-myth". Mullenhoff believed the carrying over of the attributes of a god to a line of his supposed descendants to be a common feature of myth—the descendants representing the god under another name. In accordance with this view, Scyld could be explained as an "hypostasis" of his father or forefather Sceaf, as a figure further explaining him and representing him, so that in the end the tale of the boat arrival came to be told, in *Beowulf*, of Scyld instead of Sceaf.

<sup>1</sup> See Part II

<sup>2</sup> *armis circumdatus*

<sup>3</sup> For a list of the scholars who have dealt with the subject, see *Widsith*, p. 119.

<sup>4</sup> *Beowulf*, p. 6 etc

Recent years have seen a revolt against most of Mullenhoff's theories. The view that the story originally belonged to Scef has come to be regarded with a certain amount of impatience as "out of date" Even so fine a scholar as Dr Lawrence has expressed this impatience:

"That the graceful story of the boy sailing in an open boat to the land of his future people was told originally of Scef.. needs no detailed refutation at the present day

"The attachment of the motive to Scef must be, as an examination of the sources shows, a later development".

Accordingly the view of recent scholars has been this. That the story belongs essentially to Scyld. That, as the hero of the boat story is obviously of unknown parentage, we must interpret *Scefing* not as "son of Scef" but as "with the sheaf" (in itself a quite possible explanation). That this stage of the story is preserved in *Beowulf*. That subsequently *Scyld Scefing*, standing at the head of the pedigree, came to be misunderstood as "Scyld, son of Scef" That consequently the story, which must be told of the earlier ancestor, was thus transferred from Scyld to his supposed father Scef—the version which is found in Ethelwerd and Wilham of Malmesbury.

One apparent advantage of this theory is that the oldest version, that of *Beowulf*, is accepted as the correct and original one, and the much later versions of the historians Ethelwerd and William of Malmesbury are regarded as subsequent corruptions. This on the surface seems eminently reasonable. But let us look closer. *Scyld Scefing* in *Beowulf* is to be interpreted "Scyld with the Sheaf" But *Beowulf* nowhere mentions the sheaf as part of Scyld's equipment. On the contrary, we gather that the hero is connected rather with prowess in war. It is the same in Ethelwerd It is not till William of Malmesbury that the sheaf comes into the story. So that the interpretation of *Scefing* as "with the sheaf" assumes the accuracy of William of Malmesbury's story even in a point where it receives no support from the *Beowulf* version. In other words this theory does the very thing to avoid doing which it was called into being<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* XXIV, 259 etc

<sup>2</sup> This objection to the Scyld-theory has been excellently expressed by Orlík —at a time, too, when Orlík himself accepted the story as belonging to Scyld



Besides this, there are two fundamental objections to the theory that Sceaf is a late creation, a figure formed from the misunderstanding of the epithet *Scefig* applied to *Scyld*. One portion of the poem of *Widsith* consists of a catalogue of ancient kings, and among these occurs *Sceafa*, ruling the Langobards. Now portions of *Widsith* are very ancient, and this catalogue in which *Sceafa* occurs is almost certainly appreciably older than *Beowulf* itself.

Secondly, the story of the wonderful foundling who comes over the sea from the unknown and founds a royal line, must *ex hypothesi* be told of the first in the line, and we have seen that it is Sceaf, not Scyld, who comes at the head of the Teutonic names in the genealogy in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

Now we can date this genealogy fairly exactly. It occurs under the year 855, and seems to have been drawn up at the court of King Æthelwulf. In any case it cannot be later than the latter part of Alfred's reign. This takes us back to a period when the old English epic was still widely popular. A genealogist at Alfred's court must have known much about Old English story.

These facts are simply not consistent with the belief that Sceaf is a late creation, a figure formed from a misunderstanding of the epithet *Scefig*, applied to Scyld<sup>1</sup>.

rather than Sceaf. "Binz," says Olrik, "rejects William of Malmesbury as a source for the Scyld story. But he has not noticed that in doing so he saws across the branch upon which he himself and the other investigators are sitting. For if William is not a reliable authority, and even a more reliable authority than the others, then 'Scyld with the sheaf' is left in the air." *Heltedigtning*, i, 238-9, note.

<sup>1</sup> The discussion of Skjold by Olrik (*Danmarks Heltedigtning*, i, 223-271) is perhaps the most helpful of any yet made, especially in emphasizing the necessity of differentiating the stages in the story. But it must be taken in connection with the very essential modifications made by Dr Olrik in his second volume (pp 249-65, especially pp 264-5). Dr Olrik's earlier interpretation made Scyld the original hero of the story. *Scefig* Olrik interpreted, not as "with the sheaf," but as "son of Scef." To the objection that any knowledge of Scyld's parentage would be inconsistent with his unknown origin, Olrik replied by supposing that Scyld was a foundling whose origin, though unknown to the people of the land to which he came, was well known to the poet. The poet, Dr Olrik thought, regarded him as a son of the Langobardic king, *Sceafa*, a connection which we are to attribute to the Anglo-Saxon love of framing genealogies. But this explanation of Scyld *Scefig* as a human foundling does not seem to me to be borne out by the text of *Beowulf*. "The child is a poor foundling," says Dr Olrik, "he suffered distress from the time when he was first found as a helpless child. Only as a grown man did he get compensation for his childhood's adversity" (p 228). But this is certainly not the meaning of *egsode eor[as]*. It is "He inspired the ear[as] with awe."

To arrive at any definite conclusion is difficult. But the following may be hazarded.

It may be taken as proved that the Scyld or Sceldwa of the genealogists is identical with the Scyld Scefing of *Beowulf*. For Sceldwa according to the genealogy is also ultimately a *Sceafing*, and is the father of Beow; Scyld is *Scefing* and is father of Beowulf<sup>1</sup>.

It is equally clear that the Scyld Scefing of *Beowulf* is identical with the Skjold of the Danish genealogists and historians. For Scyld and Skjold are both represented as the founder and head of the Danish royal house of Scyldingas or Skjoldungar, and as reigning in the same district. Here, however, the resemblance ceases. *Beowulf* tells us of Scyld's marvellous coming and departure. The only Danish authority who tells us much of Skjold is Saxo Grammaticus, who records how as a boy Skjold wrestled successfully with a Bear and overcame champions, and how later he annulled unrighteous laws, and distinguished himself by generosity to his court. But the Danish and English accounts have nothing specifically in common, though the type they portray is the same—that of a king from his youth beloved by his retainers and feared by neighbouring peoples, whom he subdues and makes tributary. It looks rather as if the oldest traditions had had little to say about this hero beyond the typical things which might be said of any great king; so that Danes and English had each supplied the deficiency in their own way.

Now this is exactly what we should expect. For Scyld-Skjold is hardly a personality: he is a figure evolved out of the name *Scyldingas*, *Skjoldungar*, which is an old epic title for the Danes. Of this we may be fairly certain: the Scyldingas did not get their name because they were really descended from Scyld, but Scyld was created in order to provide an eponymous father to the Scyldingas<sup>2</sup>. In just the same way

<sup>1</sup> See below (App. C) for instances of ancestral names extant both in weak and strong forms, like *Scyld*, *Sceldwa* (the identity of which no one doubts) or *Sceaf*, *Sceafa* (the identity of which has been doubted).

<sup>2</sup> "As for the name *Scyldingas-Skjoldungar*, we need not hesitate to believe that this originally meant 'the people' or 'kinsmen of the shield'. Similar appellations are not uncommon, e.g., *Rondingas*, *Helmingas*, *Brondingas*...

tradition also evolved a hero Dan, from whom the Danes were supposed to have their name Saxo Grammaticus has combined both pedigrees, making Skjold a descendant of Dan, but usually it was agreed that nothing came before Skjold, that he was the beginning of the Skjoldung line<sup>1</sup>. At first a mere name, we should expect that he would have no characteristic save that, like every respectable Germanic king, he took tribute from his foes and gave it to his friends. He differs therefore from those heroic figures like Hygelac or Guthhere (Gunnar) which, being derived from actual historic characters, have, from the beginning of their story, certain definite features attached to them. Scyld is, in the beginning, merely a name, the ancestor of the Scyldings. Tradition collects round him gradually.

Hence it will be rash to attach much weight to any feature which is found in one account of him only. Anything we are told of Scyld in English sources alone is not to be construed as evidence as to his original story, but only as to the form that story assumed in England. When, for example, *Beowulf* tells us that Scyld is *Scefing*, or that he is father of Beowulf, it will be very rash of us to assume that these relationships existed in the Danish, but have been forgotten. This is, I think, universally admitted<sup>2</sup>. Yet the very scholars who emphasize this, have assumed that the marvellous arrival as a child, in a boat, surrounded by weapons, is an essential feature of Scyld's story. Yet the evidence for this is no better and no worse than the evidence for his relationship to Scef or Beow—it rests solely on the English documents. Accordingly it only shows what was told about Scyld in England.

Of course the boat arrival *might* be an original part of the story of *Scyld-Skjold*, which has been forgotten in his native

probably these names meant either 'the people of the shield, the helmet,' etc., or else the people who used shields, helmets, etc., in some special way. In the former case we may compare the Ancile of the Romans and the Palladion of the Greeks, in either case we may note that occasionally shields have been found in the North which can never have been used except for ceremonial purposes." Chadwick, *Origin*, p. 284. cf. Olrik, *Helledigtning*, I, 274.

<sup>1</sup> Sweyn Aageson, *Skjold Danis primum didici præfuisse*, in Langebek, *S R D* I, 44.

<sup>2</sup> Olrik, *Helledigtning*, I, 246, Lawrence, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc* XXIV, 254.

country, but remembered in England. But I cannot see that we have any right to assert this, without proof

What we can assert to have been the original feature of Scyld is this—that he was the eponymous hero king of the Danes. Both *Beowulf* and the Scandinavian authorities agree upon that. The fact that his name (in the form *Sceldwa*) appears in the genealogy of the kings of Wessex is not evidence against a Danish origin. The name appears in close connection with that of Heremod, another Danish king, and is merely evidence of a desire on the part of the genealogist of the Wessex kings to connect his royal house with the most distinguished family he knew—that of the Scyldingas, about whom so much is said in the prologue to *Beowulf*.

Neither do the instances of place-names in England, such as *Scyldes treow*, *Scyldes well*, prove Scyld to have been an English hero. They merely prove him to have been a hero who was celebrated in England—which the Prologue to *Beowulf* alone is sufficient to show to have been the case. For place-names commemorating heroes of alien tribes are common enough<sup>1</sup> on English ground.

So much at least is gained. Whatever Mullenhoff<sup>2</sup> and his followers constructed upon the assumption that Scyld was an essentially Anglo-Saxon hero goes overboard. Scyld is the ancestor king of the Danish house—more than this we can hardly with safety assert.

Now let us turn to the figure of Scef. This was not necessarily connected with Scyld from the first.

The story of Scef first meets us in its completeness in the pages of William of Malmesbury. And William of Malmesbury is a twelfth century authority, by his time the Old English courtly epics had died out—for they could not have long survived the Norman Conquest and the overthrow of Old English court life. But the popular tradition<sup>3</sup> remained, and

<sup>1</sup> It is odd that Binz, who has recorded so many of these, should have argued on the strength of these place-names that the Scyld story is not Danish but an ancient possession of the tribes of the North Sea coast (p. 150). For Binz also records an immense number of names of heroes of alien stock—Danish, Gothic or Burgundian—as occurring in England (*P B B* xx, 202 etc.)

<sup>2</sup> *Beowulf*, p. 7

<sup>3</sup> Chadwick *Origin*, p. 278

a good many of the old stories, banished from the hall, must have lingered on at the cross-roads—tales of Wade and Weyland, of Offa and Sceaf. For songs, sung by minstrels at the cross roads, William of Malmesbury is good evidence, and he owns to having drawn information from similar popular sources<sup>1</sup>. William's story, then, is evidence that in his own day there was a tradition of a mythical king Sheaf who came as a child sleeping in a ship with a sheaf of corn at his head. How old this tradition may be, we cannot say. Ethelwerd knew the story, though he has nothing to say of the sheaf. But we have seen that when we get back to the ninth century, and the formation of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, at a court where we may be sure the old English heroic stories were still popular, it is Sceaf and not Sceldwa who is regarded as the beginning of things—the king whose origin is so remote that he is the oldest Germanic ancestor one can get back to<sup>2</sup>: "he was born in Noah's ark"

Whether or no Noah's ark was chosen as Sceaf's birthplace because legend represented him as coming in a boat over the water, we cannot tell. But the place he occupies, with only the Biblical names before him, as compared with Sceldwa the son of Heremod, clearly marks Sceaf rather than Sceldwa as the hero who comes from the unknown. Turning now to the catalogue of kings in *Widsith*, probably the oldest extant piece of Anglo-Saxon verse, some generations more ancient than *Beowulf*, we find a King Sceafa, who ruled over the Langobards. Finally, in *Beowulf* itself, although the story is told of Scyld, nevertheless this Scyld is characterized as *Scefing*. If this means "with the sheaf," then the *Beowulf*-story stands convicted of imperfection, of needing explanation outside itself from the

<sup>1</sup> The scandals about King Edgar (*infamias quas post dicam magis respererunt cantilenae* see *Gesta Regum Anglorum*, II, § 148, ed Stubbs, vol I, p 165); the story of Gunhilda, the daughter of Knut, who, married to a foreign King with great pomp and rejoicing, *nostro seculo etiam in trivis cantitata*, was unjustly suspected of unchastity till her English page, in vindication of her honour, slew the giant whom her accusers had brought forward as their champion (*Gesta*, II, § 188, ed Stubbs, I, pp 229, 230), the story of King Edward and the shepherdess, learnt from *cantilenae per successiones temporum detritae* (*Gesta*, II, § 138, ed Stubbs, I, 155) Macaulay in the *Lays of Ancient Rome* has selected William as a typical example of the historian who draws upon popular song. Cf Freeman's *Historical Essays*

<sup>2</sup> Olrik, *Heltedigtning*, I, 245

account which William of Malmesbury wrote four centuries later. If it means "son of Scef," why should a father be given to Scyld, when the story demands that he should come from the unknown? Was it because, if the boat story was to be attributed to Scyld, it was felt that this could only be made plausible by giving him some relation to Scef?

When we find an ancient king bearing the extraordinary name of "Sheaf," it is difficult not to connect this with the honour done to the sheaf of corn, survivals of which have been found in different parts of England. In Herneck's time, the sheaves of corn were still kissed as they were carried home on the Hock-cart, whilst

Some, with great  
Devotion, stroke the home-borne wheat.

Professor Chadwick argues, on the analogy of Prussian and Bulgarian harvest customs, that the figure of the "Harvest Queen" in the English ceremony is derived from a corn figure made from the last sheaf, and that the sheaf was once regarded as a religious symbol<sup>1</sup>. But the evidence for this is surely even stronger than would be gathered from Professor Chadwick's very cautious statement. I suppose there is hardly a county in England from Kent to Cornwall and from Kent to Northumberland, where there is not evidence for honour paid to the last sheaf—an honour which cannot be accounted for as merely expressing the joy of the reapers at having got to the end of their task. In Kent "a figure composed of some of the best corn" was made into a human shape. "this is afterwards curiously dressed by the women, and adorned with paper trimmings cut to resemble a cap, ruffles, handkerchief, etc., of the finest lace. It is brought home with the last load of corn<sup>2</sup>." In Northumberland and Durham a sheaf known as the "Kern baby" was made into the likeness of a human figure, decked out and brought home in triumph with dancing and singing<sup>3</sup>. But the most striking form of the sheaf ceremony is found in the honour done to the "Neck" in the West of England

<sup>1</sup> *Origin*, pp. 279-281

<sup>2</sup> Brand, *Popular Antiquities*, 1813, i, 443

<sup>3</sup> Henderson, *Folklore of the Northern Counties*, 87-89

. . . After the wheat is all cut, on most farms in the north of Devon, the harvest people have a custom of "crying the neck." I believe that this practice is seldom omitted on any large farm in that part of the country. It is done in this way. An old man, or someone else well acquainted with the ceremonies used on the occasion (when the labourers are reaping the last field of wheat), goes round to the shocks and sheaves, and picks out a little bundle of all the best ears he can find, this bundle he ties up very neat and trim, and plats and arranges the straws very tastefully. This is called "the neck" of wheat, or wheaten-ears. After the field is cut out, and the pitcher once more circulated, the reapers, binders, and the women, stand round in a circle. The person with "the neck" stands in the centre, grasping it with both his hands. He first stoops and holds it near the ground, and all the men forming the ring take off their hats, stooping and holding them with both hands towards the ground. They then all begin at once in a very prolonged and harmonious tone to cry "the neck!" at the same time slowly raising themselves upright, and elevating their arms and hats above their heads, the person with "the neck" also raising it on high. This is done three times. They then change their cry to "wee yen!"—"way yen!"—which they sound in the same prolonged and slow manner as before, with singular harmony and effect, three times. This last cry is accompanied by the same movements of the body and arms as in crying "the neck".

. . . After having thus repeated "the neck" three times, and "wee yen" or "way yen" as often, they all burst out into a kind of loud and joyous laugh, flinging up their hats and caps into the air, capering about and perhaps kissing the girls. One of them then gets "the neck," and runs as hard as he can down to the farm-house, where the dairy-maid, or one of the young female domestics, stands at the door prepared with a pail of water. If he who holds "the neck" can manage to get into the house, in any way, unseen or openly, by any other way than the door at which the girl stands with the pail of water, then he may lawfully kiss her, but, if otherwise, he is regularly soused with the contents of the bucket. On a fine still autumn evening, the "crying of the neck" has a wonderful effect at a distance, far finer than that of the Turkish muezzin, which Lord Byron eulogizes so much, and which he says is preferable to all the bells in Christendom. I have once or twice heard upwards of twenty men cry it, and sometimes joined by an equal number of female voices. About three years back, on some high grounds, where our people were harvesting, I heard six or seven "necks" cried in one night, although I know that some of them were four miles off<sup>1</sup>.

The account given by Mrs Bray of the Devonshire custom, in her letters to Southey, is practically identical with this<sup>2</sup>. We have plenty of evidence for this ceremony of "Crying the Neck" in the South-Western counties—in Somersetshire<sup>3</sup>, in Cornwall<sup>4</sup>, and in a mutilated form in Dorsetshire<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Hone's *Every Day Book*, 1827, p. 1170

<sup>2</sup> *The Tamar and the Tavy*, i. 330 (1836)

<sup>3</sup> Raymond, *Two men o' Mendip*, 1899, 259

<sup>4</sup> Miss M. A. Courtney, *Glossary of West Cornwall*, T. & Couch, *Glossary of East Cornwall*, s.v. Neck (Eng. Dial. Soc. 1880), Jago, *Ancient Language of Cornwall*, 1882, s. v. Anek.

<sup>5</sup> *Notes and Queries*, 4th Ser. XII, 491 (1873).

On the Welsh border the essence of the ceremony consisted in tying the last ears of corn—perhaps twenty—with ribbon, and severing this “neck” by throwing the sickle at it from some distance. The custom is recorded in Cheshire<sup>1</sup>, Shropshire<sup>2</sup>, and under a different name in Herefordshire<sup>3</sup>. The term “neck” seems to have been known as far afield as Yorkshire and the “little England beyond Wales”—the English-speaking colony of Pembrokeshire<sup>4</sup>.

Whether we are to interpret the expression “the Neck,” applied to the last sheaf, as descended from a time when “the corn spirit is conceived in human form, and the last standing corn is a part of its body—its neck<sup>5</sup>” or whether it is merely a survival of the Scandinavian word for sheaf—*nek* or *neg*<sup>6</sup>, we have here surely evidence of the worship of the sheaf. “In this way ‘Sheaf’ was greeted, before he passed over into a purely mythical being<sup>7</sup>”

I do not think these “neck” customs can be traced back beyond the seventeenth century<sup>8</sup>. Though analogous usages are recorded in England (near Eton) as early as the sixteenth century<sup>9</sup>, it was not usual at that time to trouble to record such things.

The earliest document bearing upon the veneration of the sheaf comes from a neighbouring district, and is contained in the Chronicle of the Monastery of Abingdon, which tells how in the time of King Edmund (941–946) a controversy arose as to the right of the monks of Abingdon to a certain portion of land adjoining the river. The monks appealed to a judgment of God to vindicate their claim, and this took the shape of

<sup>1</sup> Holland's *Glossary of Chester* (*Eng Dial Soc*), s v *Cutting the Neck*.

<sup>2</sup> Burne, *Shropshire Folk Lore*, 1883, 371.

<sup>3</sup> “to cry the Mare” Blount, *Glossographia*, 4th edit 1674, s v *mare*. Cf *Notes and Queries*, 5th Ser vi, 286 (1876).

<sup>4</sup> Wright, *Eng Dial Dict*, s v *neck*.

<sup>5</sup> Frazer, *Spirits of the Corn*, 1912, i, 268. The word was understood as = “neck” by the peasants, because “They'm taled up under the chin laike” (*Notes and Queries*, 5th Ser x, 51). But this may be false etymology.

<sup>6</sup> Wright, *Eng Dial Dict*. Cf *Notes and Queries*, 5th Ser x, 51.

<sup>7</sup> *Helledugtning*, ii, 252.

<sup>8</sup> The earliest record of the term “cutting the neck” seems to be found in Randle Holme's *Store House of Armory*, 1688 (ii 73). It may be noted that Holme was a Cheshire man.

<sup>9</sup> Mannhardt, *Mythologische Forschungen*, Strassburg, 1884, 326 etc.



placing a sheaf, with a taper on the top, upon a round shield, and letting it float down the river, the shield by its movements hither and thither indicating accurately the boundaries of the monastic domain. At last the shield came to the field in debate, which, thanks to the floods, it was able to circumnavigate<sup>1</sup>.

Professor Chadwick, who first emphasized the importance of this strange ordeal<sup>2</sup>, points out that although the extant MSS of the *Chronicle* date from the thirteenth century, the mention of a round shield carries the superstition back to a period before the Norman Conquest. Therefore this story seems to give us evidence for the use of the sheaf and shield together as a magic symbol in Anglo-Saxon times. "An ordeal by letting the sheaf sail down the river on a shield was only possible at a time when the sheaf was regarded as a kind of supernatural being which could find the way itself<sup>3</sup>."

But a still closer parallel to the story of the corn-figure coming over the water is found in Finnish mythology in the person of Sampsa Pellervoinen. Finnish mythology seems remote from our subject, but if the figure of Sampsa was borrowed from Germanic mythology, as seems to be thought<sup>4</sup>, we are justified in laying great weight upon the parallel.

Readers of the *Kalevala* will remember, near the beginning, the figure of Sampsa Pellervoinen, the god of Vegetation. He does not seem to do much. But there are other Finnish

<sup>1</sup> Quod dum servi Dei propensius actitarent, inspiratum est eis salubre consilium et (ut primum est credere) divinitus provisum. Die etenim statuto mane surgentes monachi sumpserunt scutum rotundum, cui imponebant manipulum frumenti, et super manipulum cereum circumspectae quantitatis et grossitudinis. Quo accenso scutum cum manipulo et cereo, fluvio ecclesiam praetercurrenti committunt, paucis in navicula fratribus subsequentibus. Praecedebat itaque eos scutum et quasi digito demonstrans possessiones domui Abbatendonae de jure adjacentes nunc huc, nunc illuc divertens, nunc in dextra nunc in sinistra parte fiducialiter eos praeibat, usquedum veniret ad rivum prope pratum quod Beri vocatur, in quo cereus medium cursum Tamisiae miraculose deserens se declinavit et circumdedit pratum inter Tamisiam et Gifteles, quod hieme et multociens aestate ex redundatione Tamisiae in modum insulae aqua circumdatur.

*Chronicon Monasterii de Abingdon*, ed Stevenson, 1858, vol. 1, p. 89.

<sup>2</sup> Chadwick, *Origin*, 278.

<sup>3</sup> Olrik, *Helledugtning*, II, 251.

<sup>4</sup> But is this so? "The word Sämpsa (now sämpsykka) 'small rush, scirpus silvaticus, forest rush,' is borrowed from the Germanic family (Engl. *semse*, Germ. *simse*)." Olrik, 253. But the Engl. "*semse*" is difficult to track. See also note by A. Mieler in *Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen*, x, 43, 1910.

poems in his honour, extant in varying versions<sup>1</sup> It is difficult to get a collected idea from these fragmentary records, but it seems to be this: Ahti, the god of the sea, sends messengers to summon Sampsä, so that he may bring fertility to the fields. In one version, first the Winter and then the Summer are sent to arouse Sampsä, that he may make the crops and trees grow. Winter—

Took a foal swift as the spring wind,  
Let the storm wind bear him forward,  
Blew the trees till they were leafless,  
Blew the grass till it was seedless,  
Bloodless likewise the young maidens

Sampsä refuses to come. Then the Summer is sent with better results. In another version Sampsä is fetched from an island beyond the sea:

It is I who summoned Sampsä  
From an isle amid the ocean,  
From a skerry bare and treeless

In yet another variant we are told how the boy Sampsä

Took six grains from off the corn heap,  
Slept all summer mid the corn heap,  
In the bosom of the corn boat

Now "It's a long, long way to" Ilomantsi in the east of Finland, where this last variant was discovered. But at least we have evidence that, within the region influenced by Germanic mythology, the spirit of vegetation was thought of as a boy coming over the sea, or sleeping in a boat with corn<sup>2</sup>.

To sum up.

Sceafa, when the Catalogue of Kings in *Widsith* was drawn up—before *Beowulf* was composed, at any rate in its present form—was regarded as an ancient king. When the West Saxon pedigree was drawn up, certainly not much more than a century and a half after the composition of *Beowulf*, and perhaps much less, Sceaf was regarded as the primitive figure in the pedigree, before whom no one lived save the Hebrew patriarchs. That he was originally thought of as a child,

<sup>1</sup> Kaarle Krohn, "Sampsä Pellervoinen" in *Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen*, iv, 231 etc., 1904

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Olrik, *Heltegdytning*, II, 252 etc

coming across the water, with the sheaf of corn, is, in view of the Finnish parallel, exceedingly probable, and acquires some confirmation from the Chronicler's placing him in Noah's ark. But the definite evidence for this is late

Scyld, on the other hand, is in the first place probably a mere eponym of the power of the Scylding kings of Denmark. He may, at a very early date, have been provided with a ship funeral, since later two Swedish kings, both apparently of Danish origin, have this ship funeral accorded to them, and in one case it is expressly said to be "according to the custom of his ancestors." But it seems exceedingly improbable that his original story represented him as coming over the sea in a boat. For, if so, it remains to be explained why this motive has entirely disappeared among his own people in Scandinavia, and has been preserved only in England. Would the Danes have been likely to forget utterly so striking a story, concerning the king from whom their line derived its name? Further, in England, *Beowulf* alone attributes this story to Scyld, whilst later historians attribute it to Sceaf. In view of the way in which the story of William of Malmesbury is supported by folklore, to regard that story as merely the result of error or invention seems perilous indeed.

On the other hand, all becomes straightforward if we allow that Scyld and Sceaf were both ancient figures standing at the head of famous dynasties. Their names alliterate. What more likely than that their stories should have influenced each other, and that one king should have come to be regarded as the parent or ancestor of the other? Contamination with Scyld would account for Sceaf's boat being stated to have come to land in Scani, Scanza—that Scedeland which is mentioned as the seat of Scyld's rule. Yet this explanation is not necessary, for if Sceaf were an early Longobard king, he would be rightly represented as ruling in Scandinavia<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> I do not understand why Olrik (*Heltedigtning*, I, 235) declares the coming to land in Scani (Ethelwerd) to be inconsistent with Sceaf as a Longobardic king (*Widsith*). For, according to their national historian, the Longobards came from "Scadinavia" [Paul the Deacon, I, 1-7]. It is a more serious difficulty that Paul knows of no Longobardic king with a name which we can equate with Sceaf.

## SECTION VI. BEOW

The Anglo-Saxon genealogies agree that the son of Sceldwa (Scyld) is Beow (Beaw, Beo). In *Beowulf*, he is named not Beow, but Beowulf

Many etymologies have been suggested for *Bēow*. But considering that Beow is in some versions a grandson, in all a descendant of Scaef, it can hardly be an accident that his name is identical with the O E. word for grain, *bēow*. The Norse word corresponding to this is *bygg*<sup>1</sup>.

Recent investigation of the name is best summed up in the words of Axel Olrik:

"New light has been cast upon the question of the derivation of the name Beow by Kaarle Krohn's investigation of the debt of Finnish to Norse mythology, together with Magnus Olsen's linguistic interpretation. The Finnish has a deity Pekko, concerning whom it is said that he promoted the growth of barley. The Esths, closely akin to the Finns, have a corresponding Peko, whose image—the size of a three-year-old child—was carried out into the fields and invoked at the time of sowing, or else was kept in the corn-bin by a custodian chosen for a year. This Pekko is plainly a personification of the barley, the form corresponding phonetically in Runic Norse would be \**beggw-* (from which comes Old Norse *bygg*)

"So in Norse there was a grain \**beggw-* (becoming *bygg*) and a corn-god \**Beggw-* (becoming *Pekko*). In Anglo-Saxon there was a grain *bēow* and an ancestral *Bēow*. And all four are phonetically identical (proceeding from a primitive form \**beuwa*, 'barley'). The conclusion which it is difficult to avoid is, that the corn-spirit 'Barley' and the ancestor 'Barley' are one and the same. The relation is the same as that between King Sheaf and the worship of the sheaf: the worshipped corn-being gradually sinks into the background, and comes to be regarded as an epic figure, an early ancestor.

"We have no more exact knowledge of the mythical ideas connected either with the ancestor Beow or the corn-god Pekko. But we know enough of the worship of Pekko to show that he dwelt in the corn-heap, and that, in the spring, he was fetched out in the shape of a little child. That reminds us not a little of Sampsä, who lay in the corn-heap on the ship, and came to land and awoke in the spring"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> So, corresponding to O E *triewe* we have Icel *tryggr*, to O E *glēaw*, Icel *glogg*, O E *scūwa*, Icel *skugg*.

<sup>2</sup> Olrik, *Helteedgning* II, 1910, pp 254-5

An account of the worship of Pekko will be found in *Finnisch Ugrische Forschungen*, VI, 1906, pp 104-111. *Über den Pekokultus bei den Setukesen*, by M J Eisen. See also Appendix (A) below

Pellon-Pekko is mentioned by Michael Agricola, Bishop of Åbo, in his translation of the Psalter into Finnish, 1551. It is here that we are told that he "promoted the growth of barley"

But it may be objected that this is "harking back" to the old mythological interpretations. After refusing to accept Múllenhoff's assumptions, are we not reverting, through the names of Sceaƿ and Beow, and the worship of the sheaf, to very much the same thing?

No. It is one thing to believe that the ancestor-king Beow may be a weakened form of an ancient divinity, a mere name surviving from the figure of an old corn-god Beow; it is quite another to assume, as Múllenhoff did, that what we are told about Beowulf was originally told about Beow *and that therefore we are justified in giving a mythological meaning to it.*

All we know, conjecture apart, about Beow is his traditional relationship to Scyld, Sceaƿ and the other figures of the pedigree. That Beowulf's dragon fight belonged originally to him is only a conjecture. In confirmation of this conjecture only one argument has been put forward—an argument turning upon Beowulf, son of Scyld—that obscure figure, apparently equivalent to Beow, who meets us at the beginning of our poem.

Beowulf's place as a son of Scyld and father of Healfdene is occupied in the Danish genealogies by Frothi, son of Skjold, and father of Halfdan. It has been urged that the two figures are really identical, in spite of the difference of name. Now Frothi slays a dragon, and it has been argued that this dragon fight shows similarities which enable us to identify it with the dragon fight attributed in our poem to Beowulf the Geat.

The argument is a strong one—if it really is the case that the dragon slain by Frothi was the same monster as that slain by Beowulf the Geat.

Unfortunately this parallel, which will be examined in the next section, is far from certain. We must be careful not to argue in a circle, identifying Beowulf and Frothi because they slew the same dragon, and then identifying the dragons because they were slain by the same hero.

Whilst, therefore, we admit that it is highly probable that Beow (grain) the descendant of Sceaƿ (sheaf) was originally a corn divinity or corn fetish, we cannot follow Múllenhoff in his bold attribution to this "culture hero" of Beowulf's adventures with the dragon or with Grendel.

SECTION VII THE HOUSE OF SCYLD AND DANISH  
PARALLELS · HEREMOD-LOTHERUS AND BEOWULF-FROTTHO.

Scyld, although the source of that Scylding dynasty which our poem celebrates, is *not* apparently regarded in *Beowulf* as the earliest Danish king. He came to the throne after an interregnum, the people whom he grew up to rule had long endured cruel need, "being without a prince"<sup>1</sup>. We hear in *Beowulf* of one Danish king only whom we can place chronologically before Scyld—viz. Heremod<sup>2</sup>. The way in which Heremod is referred to would fit in very well with the supposition<sup>3</sup> that he was the last of a dynasty, the immediate predecessor of Scyld, and that it was the death or exile of Heremod which ushered in the time when the Danes were without a prince.

Now there is a natural tendency in genealogies for each king to be represented as the descendant of his predecessor, whether he really was so or no, so that in the course of time, and sometimes of a very short time, the first king of a new dynasty may come to be reckoned as son of a king of the preceding line<sup>4</sup>. Consequently, there would be nothing surprising if, in another account, we find Scyld represented as a son of Heremod. And we *do* find the matter represented thus in the West Saxon genealogy, where Sceldwa or Scyld is son of Heremod. Turning to the Danish accounts, however, we do not find any *Hermóðr* (which is the form we should expect corresponding to *Heremōð*) as father to Skjold (Scyld). Either no father of Skjold is known, or else (in Saxo Grammaticus) he has a father Lotherus. But, although the names are different, there is some correspondence between what we are told of Lothar and what we are told of Heremod. A close parallel has indeed been drawn by Sievers between the whole dynasty on the one hand Lotherus, his son Skjoldus, and his descendant Frotno,

<sup>1</sup> l. 15

<sup>2</sup> That Heremod is a Danish king is clear from ll. 1709 *etc.* And as we have all the stages in the Scylding genealogy from Scyld to Hrothgar, Heremod must be placed earlier.

<sup>3</sup> Of Grein in *Eberts Jahrbuch*, iv, 264.

<sup>4</sup> A good example of this is supplied by the Assyrian records, which make Jehu a son of Omri—whose family he had destroyed.

as given in Saxo: and on the other hand the corresponding figures in *Beowulf*, Heremod, Scyld, and Scyld's son, Beowulf the Dane

The fixed and certain point here is the identity of the central figure, Skioldus-Scyld. All the rest is very doubtful; not that there are not many parallel features, but because the parallels are of a commonplace type which might so easily recur accidentally.

The story of Lothar, as given by Saxo, will be found below the story of Heremod as given in *Beowulf* is hopelessly obscure—a mere succession of allusions intended for an audience who knew the tale quite well. Assuming the stories of Lothar and Heremod to be different versions of one original, the following would seem to be the most likely reconstruction<sup>1</sup>, the more doubtful portions being placed within round brackets thus ( ):

The old Danish prince [Dan in Saxo] has two sons, one a weakling [*Humblus*, Saxo] the other a hero [*Lotharus*, Saxo *Heremod*, *Beowulf*] (who was already in his youth the hope of the nation) But after his father's death the elder was (through violence) raised to the throne and Lothar-Heremod went into banishment. (But under the rule of the weakling the kingdom went to pieces, and thus) many a man longed for the return of the exile, as a help against these evils. So the hero conquers and deposes the weaker brother. But then his faults break forth, his greed and his cruelty—he ceases to be the darling and becomes the scourge of his people, till they rise and either slay him or drive him again into exile.

If the stories of Lothar and Heremod are connected, we may be fairly confident that Heremod, not Lothar, was the name of the king in the original story.

For Scandinavian literature does know a Hermoth (*Her-móðr*), though no such adventures are attributed to him as those recorded of Heremod in *Beowulf*. Nevertheless it is probable that this Hermoth and Heremod in *Beowulf* are one and the same, because both heroes are linked in some way or other with Sigemund. How these two kings, Heremod and Sigemund, came to be connected, we do not know, but we find this connection recurring again and again<sup>2</sup>. This may be

<sup>1</sup> This reconstruction is made by Sievers in the *Berichte d. k. sächs. Gesellsch. d. Wissenschaften*, 1895, pp. 180-88.

<sup>2</sup> The god *Hermóðr* who rides to Hell to carry a message to the dead Baldr is here left out of consideration. His connection with the king *Her-móðr* is obscure.

mere coincidence: but I doubt if we are justified in assuming it to be so<sup>1</sup>.

It has been suggested<sup>2</sup> that both Heremod and Sigemund were originally heroes specially connected with the worship of Odin, and hence grouped together. The history of the Scandinavian Sigmund is bound up with that of the magic sword which Odin gave him, and with which he was always victorious till the last fight when Odin himself shattered it.

And we are told in the Icelandic that Odin, whilst he gave a sword to Sigmund, gave a helm and byrnie to Hermoth

Again, whilst in one Scandinavian poem Sigmund is represented as welcoming the newcomer at the gates of Valhalla, in another the same duty is entrusted to Hermoth

It is clear also that the *Beowulf*-poet had in mind some kind of connection, though we cannot tell what, between Sigemund and Heremod

We may take it, then, that the Heremod who is linked with Sigemund in *Beowulf* was also known in Scandinavian literature as a hero in some way connected with Sigmund whether or no the adventures which Saxo records of Lotharus were really told in Scandinavian lands in connection with Hermoth, we cannot say. The wicked king whose subjects rebel against him is too common a feature of Germanic story for us to feel sure, without a good deal of corroborative evidence, that the figures of Lotharus and Heremod are identical.

The next king in the line, Skjoldus in Saxo, is, as we have seen, clearly identical with Scyld in *Beowulf*. But beyond the name, the two traditions have, as we have also seen, but little in common. Both are youthful heroes<sup>3</sup>, both force neighbouring kings to pay tribute<sup>4</sup>; but such things are common-places<sup>5</sup>

We must therefore turn to the next figure in the pedigree: the son of Skjold in Scandinavian tradition is Frothi (Frotho

<sup>1</sup> On this see Dederich, *Historische u. geographische Studien*, 214; Heinzel in *Afd A* xv, 161, Chadwick, *Origin*, 148, Chadwick, *Cult of Odin*, 51

<sup>2</sup> Chadwick, *Cult of Odin*, pp 50, etc

<sup>3</sup> *puerulus pro miraculo exceptus* (William of Malmesbury) Cf *Beowulf*, l 7

In Saxo, Skjold distinguishes himself at the age of fifteen

<sup>4</sup> *omnem Alemannorum gentem tributaria ditone perdomuit* Cf *Beowulf*, l 11

<sup>5</sup> See above, p 77



in Saxo<sup>1</sup>, the son of Scyld in *Beowulf* is Beowulf the Dane. And Frothi is the father of Halfdan (Haldanus in Saxo) as Beowulf the Dane is of Healfdene. The Frothi of Scandinavian tradition corresponds then in position to Beowulf the Dane in Old English story<sup>2</sup>.

Now of Beowulf the Dane we are told so little that we have really no means of drawing a comparison between him and Frothi. But a theory that has found wide acceptance among scholars assumes that the dragon fight of Beowulf the Geat was originally narrated of Beowulf the Dane, and only subsequently transferred to the Geatic hero. Theoretically, then, Beowulf the Dane kills a dragon. Now certainly Frotho kills a dragon and it has been generally accepted<sup>3</sup> that the parallels between the dragon slain by Frotho and that slain by Beowulf the Geat are so remarkable as to exclude the possibility of mere accidental coincidence, and to lead us to conclude that the dragon story was originally told of that Beowulf who corresponds to Frothi, i.e. Beowulf the Dane, son of Scyld and father of Healfdene, not Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, the Geat.

But are the parallels really so close? We must not forget that here we are building theory upon theory. That the Frotho of Saxo is the same figure as Beowulf the Dane in Old English, is a theory, based upon his common relationship to Skjold-Scyld before him and to Haldanus-Healfdene coming after him—that Beowulf the Dane was the original hero of the dragon fight, and that that dragon fight was only subsequently transferred to the credit of Beowulf the Geat, is again a theory. Only if we can find real parallels between the dragon-slaying of Frotho and the dragon-slaying of Beowulf will these theories have confirmation.

<sup>1</sup> This relationship of Frothi and Skjold is preserved by Sweyn Aageson Skjold Danis primum didici præfuisse. A quo primum Skjoldunger sunt Reges nuncupati. Qui regni post se reliquit hæredes Frothi videlicet & Haldanum Svenonis Aggonis *Hist. Regum Dan.* in Langebek, *S.R.D.* i, 44.

In Saxo Frotho is not the son, but the great grandson of Skjoldus—but this is a discrepancy which may be neglected, because it seems clear that the difference is due to Saxo having inserted two names into the line at this point—those of Gram and Hadding. There seems no reason to doubt that Danish tradition really represented Frothi as son of Skjold.

<sup>2</sup> Those who accept the identification would regard *Fróði* (OE *Frōða*, 'the wise') as a title which has ousted the proper name.

<sup>3</sup> Boer, *Ark f. nord. filol.*, xix, 67, calls this theory of Sievers "indisputable."

Parallels have been pointed out by Sievers which he regards as so close as to justify a belief that both are derived ultimately from an old lay, with so much closeness that verbal resemblances can still be traced.

Unfortunately the parallels are all commonplaces. That Sievers and others have been satisfied with them was perhaps due to the fact that they started by assuming as proved that the dragon fight of Beowulf the Geat belonged originally to Beowulf the Dane<sup>1</sup>, and argued that since Frotho in Saxo occupies a place corresponding exactly to that of Beowulf the Dane in *Beowulf*, a comparatively limited resemblance between two dragons coming, as it were, at the same point in the pedigree, might be held sufficient to identify them.

But, as we have seen, the assumption that the dragon fight of Beowulf the Geat belonged originally to Beowulf the Dane is only a theory that will have to stand or fall as we can prove that the dragon fight of Frotho is really parallel to that of Beowulf the Geat, and therefore must have belonged to the connecting link supplied by the Scylding prince Beowulf the Dane. In other words, the theory that the dragon in *Beowulf* is to be identified with the dragon which in Saxo is slain by Frotho the Danish prince, father of Haldanus-Healfdene, is one of the main arguments upon which we must base the theory that the dragon in *Beowulf* was originally slain by the Danish Beowulf, father of Healfdene, not by Beowulf the Geat. We cannot then turn round, and assert that the fact that they were both slain by a Danish prince, the father of Healfdene, is an argument for identifying the dragons.

Turning to the dragon fight itself, the following parallels have been noted by Sievers.

(1) A native (*indigena*) comes to Frotho, and tells him of the treasure-guarding dragon. An informer (*melda*) plays the same part in *Beowulf*<sup>2</sup>.

But a dragon is not game which can be met with every day. He is a shy beast, lurking in desert places. Some informant has very frequently to guide the hero to his

<sup>1</sup> Sievers, p. 181.

<sup>2</sup> *Beowulf*, 2405. Cf. 2215, 2281.

foe<sup>1</sup>. And the situation is widely different. Frotho knows nothing of the dragon till directed to the spot: Beowulf's land has been assailed, he knows of the dragon, though he needs to be guided to its *exact* lair

(2) Frotho's dragon lives on an island Beowulf's lives near the sea, and there is an island (*ēalond*, 2334) in the neighbourhood

But *ēalond* in *Beowulf* probably does not mean "island" at all and in any case the dragon did not live upon the *ēalond*. Many dragons have lived near the sea. Sigemund's dragon did so<sup>2</sup>

(3) The hero in each case attacks the dragon single-handed

But what hero ever did otherwise? On the contrary, Beowulf's exploit differs from that of Frotho and of most other dragon slayers in that he is unable to *overcome* his foe single-handed, and needs the support of Wiglaf

(4) Special armour is carried by the dragon slayer in each case

But this again is no uncommon feature The Red Cross Knight also needs special armour Dragon slayers constantly invent some ingenious or even unique method And again the parallel is far from close Frotho is advised to cover his shield and his limbs with the hides of bulls and kine a sensible precaution against fiery venom Beowulf constructs a shield of iron<sup>3</sup>. which naturally gives very inferior protection<sup>4</sup>.

(5) Frotho's informant tells him that he must be of good courage<sup>5</sup> Wiglaf encourages Beowulf<sup>6</sup>

But the circumstances under which the words are uttered are entirely different, nor have the words more than a general resemblance. That a man needs courage, if he is going to tackle a dragon, is surely a conclusion at which two minds could have arrived independently

(6) Both heroes waste their blows at first on the scaly back of the dragon

<sup>1</sup> So Regn guides Sigurd Una the Red Cross Knight The list might be indefinitely extended. Similarly with giants "Then came to him a husband-man of the country, and told him how there was in the country of Constantine, beside Brittany, a great giant" *Morte d'Arthur*, Book IV, cap v

<sup>2</sup> *Beowulf*, 895

<sup>3</sup> l 2338

<sup>4</sup> ll 2570 etc

<sup>5</sup> *intrepidum mentis habitum retinere memento*

<sup>6</sup> ll 2663 etc

But if the hero went at once for the soft parts, there would be no fight at all, and all the fun would be lost. Sigurd's dragon-fight is, for this reason, a one-sided business from the first. To avoid this, Frotho is depicted as beginning by an attack on the dragon's rough hide (although he has been specially warned by the *indigena* not to do so)

ventre sub imo  
esse locum scito quo ferrum mergere fas est,  
hunc mucrone petens medium rimaberis anguem<sup>1</sup>.

(7) The hoard is plundered by both heroes

But it is the nature of a dragon to guard a hoard<sup>2</sup>. And, having slain the dragon, what hero would neglect the gold?

(8) There are many verbal resemblances: the dragon spits venom<sup>3</sup>, and twists himself into coils<sup>4</sup>.

Some of these verbal resemblances may be granted as proved, but they surely do not prove the common origin of the two dragon fights. They only tend to prove the common origin of the school of poetry in which these two dragon fights were told. That dragons dwelt in mounds was a common Germanic belief, to which the Cottonian Gnostic verses testify. Naturally, therefore, Frotho's dragon is *montis possessor*. Beowulf's is *georges hyrde*. The two phrases undoubtedly point back to a similar gradus, to a similar traditional stock phraseology, and to similar beliefs: that is all. As well argue that two kings must be identical, because each is called *folces hyrde*.

These commonplace phrases and commonplace features are surely quite insufficient to prove that the stories are identical—at most they only prove that they bear the impress of one and the same poetical school. If a parallel is to carry weight there must be something individual about it, as there is, for example, about the arguments by which the identity of Beowulf and Bjarki have been supported. That a hero comes from

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Beowulf*, 2705. *forwāt Wedra helm wýrm on middan*

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Cotton Gnostic verses*, ll. 26-7. *Draca sceal on hlāwe frōd, frātwum wland*

<sup>3</sup> *virusque profundens* *wearp wæl-sýre*, 2582

<sup>4</sup> *imphictus gyris serpens crebrisque reflexus*  
*orbibus et caudae sinuosa volumina ducens*  
*multiplicesque agitans spiras*

Cf. *Beowulf*, 2567-8, 2569, 2561 (*hring-boga*), 2827 (*wðhbogen*)

Geatland (Gautland) to the court where Hrothulf (Rolf) is abiding, that the same hero subsequently is instrumental in helping Eadgils (Athils) against Onela (Ah)—here we have something tangible. But when two heroes, engaged upon slaying a dragon, are each told to be brave, the parallel is too general to be a parallel at all. "There is a river in Macedonia; and there is also moreover a river at Monmouth, and there is salmon in both."

And there is a fundamental difference, which would serve to neutralize the parallels, even did they appear much less accidental than they do.

Dragon fights may be classified into several types: two stand out prominently. There is the story in which the young hero begins his career by slaying a dragon or monster and winning, it may be a hoard of gold, it may be a bride. This is the type of story found, for instance, in the tales of Sigurd, or Perseus, or St George. On the other hand there is the hero who, at the end of his career, seeks to ward off evil from himself and his people. He slays the monster, but is himself slain by it. The great example of this type is the god Thor, who in the last fight of the gods slays the Dragon, but dies when he has reeled back nine paces from the "baleful serpent".

Now the story of the victorious young Frotho is of the one type. that of the aged Beowulf is of the other. And this difference is essential, fundamental, dominating the whole situation in each case giving its cheerful and aggressive tone to the story of Frotho, giving the elegiac and pathetic note which runs through the whole of the last portion of *Beowulf*<sup>2</sup>. It is no mere detail which could be added or subtracted by a narrator without altering the essence of the story.

In face of this we must pronounce the two stories essentially and originally distinct. If, nevertheless, there were a large number of striking and specific similarities, we should have to allow that, though originally distinct, the one dragon story had influenced the other in detail. For, whilst each poet who retold the tale would make alterations in detail, and might

<sup>1</sup> *Volospá*, 172-3 in *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, i, 200

<sup>2</sup> Cf. on this Olrik, *Heltedigtning*, i, 305-15

## PART II

### DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATING THE STORIES IN *BEOWULF*, AND THE *OFFA-SAGA*.

#### A. THE EARLY KINGS OF THE DANES ACCORDING TO SAXO GRAMMATICUS

Saxo, Book I, ed. Ascensius, fol 111 b ; ed Holder, p. 10, l. 25.

Uerum a Dan, ut fert antiquitas, regum nostrorum stemmata, ceu quodam deriuata principio, splendido successionis ordine profluxerunt. Hunc filii Humblus et Lotherus fuere, ex Grytha, summæ inter Teutones dignitatis matrona, suscepti.

Lecturi regem ueteres affixis humo saxis insistere, suffragaque promere consueuerant, subiectorum lapidum firmitate constantiam ominaturi. Quo ritu Humblus, decedente

ad patriæ beneficio rex creatus, sequentis fortunæ malignitate, ex rege priuatus euasit. Bello siquidem a Lothero captus, regni depositione spiritum mercatus est, hæc sola quippe uicto salutis conditio reddebatur. Ita fraternis iniuriis imperium abdicare coactus, documentum hominibus præbuit, ut plus splendoris, ita minus securitatis, aulis quam tugurnis inesse. Ceterum iniuriæ tam patiens fuit, ut honoris damno tanquam beneficio gratulari crederetur, sagaciter, ut puto, regiæ conditionis habitum contemplatus. Sed nec Lotherus tolerabiliorem regem quam militem egit, ut prorsus insolentia ac scelere regnum auspicari uideretur, siquidem illustrissimum quemque uita aut opibus spoliante, patriamque bonis ciuibus uacuefacere probitatis loco duxit, regni æmulos ratus, quos nobilitate pares habuerat. Nec diu scelorum impunitus, patriæ consternatione perimitur; eadem spiritum eripiente, quæ regnum largita fuerat.

Cuius filius Skyoldus naturam ab ipso, non mores sortitus, per summam tenerioris ætatis industriam cuncta paternæ contagionis uestigia ingenti erroris demo præteribat. Igitur ut a paternis uitis prudenter descuiuit, ita auitis uirtutibus feliciter respondit, remotiorem panter ac præstantiorem hereditarii moris portionem amplexus. Huius adolescentia inter paternos uenatores immanis beluæ subactione insignis extitit, mirandoque rei euentu futuræ eius fortitudinis habitum ominata est. Nam cum a tutoribus forte, quorum summo studio educabatur, inspectandæ uenationis licentiam impetrasset, obuium sibi insolitæ granditatis ursum, telo uacuus, cingulo, cuius usum habebat, religandum curauit, necandumque comitibus præbuit. Sed et complures spectatæ fortitudinis pugiles per idem tempus uirum ab eo superati produntur, e quibus Attalus et Scatus clari illustresque fuere. Quindecim annos natus, inusitato corporis incremento perfectissimum humani roboris specimen præferebat, tantaque indolis eius experimenta fuere, ut ab ipso ceteri Danorum reges communi quodam uocabulo Skioldungi nuncuparentur...

Saxo then relates the adventures of Gram, Hadingus and Frotho, whom he represents as respectively son, grandson and great-grandson of Skioldus. That Gram and Hadingus are interpolated in the family is shewn by the fact that the pedigree of Sweyn Aageson passes direct from Skiold to his son Frothi.

Saxo, Book II, ed. Ascensius, fol. xi b, ed. Holder, p. 38, l. 4.

Hadingo filius Frotho succedit, cuius uari insignesque casus fuere. Pubertatis annos emensus, iuuenilium præferebat complementa uirtutum, quas ne desidiæ corrupendas præberet, abstractum uoluptatibus animum assidua armorum intentione torquebat. Qui cum, paterno thesauro bellicis operibus absumpto, stipendiorum facultatem, qua militem aleret, non haberet, attentiusque necessarij usus subsidia circumspicere, tali subeuntis indigenæ carmine concitatur.

Insula non longe est præmollihus edita chuis,

Collibus æra tegens et opimæ conscia prædæ.

Hic tenet eximium, montis possessor, aceruum

Implicitus giris serpens crebrisque reflexus  
Orbibus, et caudæ sinuosa uolumina ducens,  
Multiplicesque agitans spiras, urusque profundens.  
Quem superare uolens clypeo, quo conuenit uti,  
Taurinas intende cutes, corpusque bouinis  
Tergoribus tegito, nec amaro nuda ueneno  
Membra patere sinas, sanies, quod conspuunt, urit.  
Lingua trisulca micans patulo licet ore resultet,  
Tristiaque horrifico minitetur uulnera notu,  
Intrepidum mentis habitum retinere memento.  
Nec te permoueat spinosi dentis acumen,  
Nec rigor, aut rapida iactatum fauce uenenum.  
Tela licet temnat uis aquamea, uentre sub imo  
Esse locum scito, quo ferrum mergere fas est,  
Hunc mucrone petens medium rimaberis anguem.  
Hinc montem securus adi, pressoque ligone  
Perfossos scrutare cauos, mox ære crumenas  
Imbue, completamque reduc ad littora puppim

Credulus Frotho solitarius in insulam traucit ne comitator  
beluam adoriretur, quam athletas aggredi moris fuerat Quæ  
cum aquis pota specum repeteret, impactum Frothonis ferrum  
aspero cutis horrore contempsit Sed et spicula, quæ in eam  
coniecta fuerant, eluso mittentis conatu læsionis irrita result-  
abant. At ubi nil tergi duritia cessit, uentris curiosius annotati  
mollities ferro patuit Quæ se morsu ulcisci cupiens, clypeo  
duntaxat spinosum oris acumen impegit. Crebris deinde lin-  
guam micatibus ducens, uitam pariter ac urus efflauit.

Repertæ pecuniæ regem locupletem fecere .

Saxo, Book II, ed. Ascensius, fol. xv b; ed Holder, p. 51, l 4.

His, uirtute paribus, æqua regnandi incessit auditas Im-  
perii cuique cura exitit, fraternus nullum respectus astrinxit  
Quem enim nimia sui caritas cepent, aliena deserit nec sibi  
quisquam ambitiose atque aliis amice consulere potest Horum  
maximus Haldanus, Roe et Scato fratribus interfectis, naturam  
scelere polluit. regnum parricidio carpsit Et ne ullum crudeli-  
tatis exemplum omitteret, comprehensos eorum fautores prius



vinculorum pœna coercuit, mox suspendio consumpsit. Cuius ex eo maxime fortuna ammirabilis fuit, quod, licet omnia temporum momenta ad exercenda atrocitatis officia contulisset, senectute uitam, non ferro, finierit.

Huius filii Roe et Helgo fuere. A Roe Roskildia condita memoratur: quam postmodum Sueno, furcatæ barbæ cognomento clarus, ciuibus auxit, amplitudine propagauit. Hic breui angustoque corpore fuit. Helgonem habitus procerior cepit. Qui, diu cum fratre regno, maris possessionem sortitus, regem Sclauæ Scalcum maritimus copis lacessitum oppressit. Quam cum in prouinciam redegisset, uarios pelagi recessus uago nauigationis genere perlustrabat.

Saxo, Book II, ed. Ascensius, fol. xvīa; ed. Holder, p. 53, l. 16.

Hinc filius Roluo succedit, uir corporis animique dotibus uenustus, qui staturæ magnitudinem pari uirtutis habitu commendaret.

*Ibid.*, ed. Ascensius, fol. xvīia, ed. Holder, p. 55, l. 40.

Per idem tempus Agnerus quidam, Ingelli filius, sororem Roluonis, Rutam nomine, matrimonio ducturus, ingenti conuiuio nuptias instruit. In quo cum pugiles, omni petulantiae genere debacchantes, in Ialtonem quendam nodosa passim ossa conicerent, accidit, ut eius consessor, Biarco nomine, iacentis errore uehementem capite ictum exciperet. Qui dolore pariter ac ludibrio lacessitus, osse inuicem in iacentem remisso, frontem eius in occupat reflexit, idemque loco frontis intorsit, transuersum hominis animum uultus obliquitate mulcendo. Ea res contumeliosam ioci insolentiam temperauit, pugilesque regia abire coegit. Qua conuiuii iniuria permotus, sponsus ferro cum Biarcone decernere statuit, uolatæ hilaritatis ultionem duelli nomine quæsiturus. In cuius ingressu, utri prior ferendi copia deberetur diutule certatum est. Non enim antiquitus in edendis agonibus crebræ ictuum uicissitudines petebantur, sed erat cum interuallo temporis etiam ferendi distincta successio, rarisque sed atrocibus plagis certamina gerebantur, ut gloria potius percussorum magnitudini, quam numero deferretur. Prælato ob generis dignitatem Agnero, tanta ui ictum ab eo editum

constat, ut, prima cassidis parte conscissa, supremam capitis cuticulam uulneraret, ferrumque medius galeæ interclusum foraminibus dimitteret. Tunc Biarco mutuo percussurus, quo plenius ferrum libraret, pedem trunco annexus, medium Agneri corpus præstantis acuminis mucrone transegit. Sunt qui asserant, morientem Agnerum soluto in risum ore per summam doloris dissimulationem spiritum reddidisse. Cuius ultionem pugiles audius expetentes, simili per Biarconem exitio mulcati sunt. Utebatur quippe præstantis acuminis inusitatæque longitudinis gladio, quem *Lôu* uocabat. Talibus operum meritis exultanti nouam de se siluestris fera uictoriam præbuit. Ursum quippe eximæ magnitudinis obuium sibi inter dumeta factum iaculo confecit. comitemque suum Ialtonem, quo uiribus maior euaderet, applicato ore egestum belluæ cruorem haurire iussit. Creditum namque erat, hoc potioris genere corporei roboris incrementa præstari. His facinorum uirtutibus clarissimas optimatum familiaritates adeptus, etiam regi percarus euasit, sororem eius Rutam uxorem asciuit, uictique sponsam uictoriæ præmium habuit. Ab Atislo lacessiti Rولوis ultionem armis exegit, eumque uictum bello prostrauit. Tunc Rولو magni acuminis iuuenem Hiarthwarum nomine, sorore Sculda sibi in matrimonium data, annuoque uectigali imposito, Suetæ præfectum constituit, libertatis iacturam affinitatis beneficio leniturus.

Hoc loci quiddam memoratu iucundum operi inseratur. Adolescens quidam Wiggo nomine, corpoream Rولوis magnitudinem attentiori contemplatione scrutatus, ingentique eiusdem admiratione captus, percontari per ludibrium cœpit, quisnam esset iste Krage, quem tanto staturæ fastigio prodiga rerum natura ditasset, faceto cauillationis genere inusitatum proceritatis habitum prosecutus. Dicitur enim lingua Danica 'krage' truncus, cuius semicæsis ramus fastigia conscenduntur, ita ut pes, præcisorum stipitum obsequio perinde ac scalæ beneficio nixus, sensimque ad superiora prouectus, petitiæ celsitudinis compendium assequatur. Quem uocis iactum Rولو perinde ac inclytum sibi cognomen amplexus, urbanitatem dicti ingentis armillæ dono prosequitur. Qua Wiggo dexteram excultam extollens, læua per pudoris simulationem post tergum

reflexa, ridiculum corporis incessum præbuit, præfatus, exiguo lætari munere, quem sors diutinæ tenuisset inopiæ. Rogatus, cur ita se gereret, inopem ornamenti manum nulloque cultus beneficio gloriantem ad aspectum reliquæ uerecundo paupertatis rubore perfundi dicebat. Curus dicti calliditate consentaneum priori munus obtinuit Siquidem Roluo manum, quæ ab ipso occultabatur, exemplo reliquæ in medium accersendam curauit Nec Wiggoni rependendi benefici cura defuit. Siquidem arctissima uoti nuncupatione pollicitus est, si Roluonem ferro perire contingeret, ultionem se ab eius interfectonibus exacturum. Nec prætereundum, quod olim ingressum curiam proceres famulatus sui principia alicuius magnæ rei uoto principibus obligare solebant, uirtute tirocinium auspicantes

Interea Sçulda, tributariæ solutionis pudore permota, diris animum commentis applicans, maritum, exprobrata conditionis deformitate, propulsandæ seruitutis monitu concitatum atque ad insidias Roluoni nectendas perductum atrocissimis nouarum rerum consiliis imbuunt, plus unumquemque libertati quam necessitudini debere testata Igitur crebras armorum massas, diuersi generis tegminibus obuolutas, tributum more per Hiarthwarum in Daniam perferri iubet, occidendi noctu regis materiam præbituras Refertis itaque falsa uestigalium mole nauigis, Lethram pergitur, quod oppidum, a Roluone constructum eximisque regni opibus illustratum, ceteris confinium prouinciarum urbibus regiæ foundationis et sedis auctoritate præstabat Rex aduentum Hiarthwari conuiuialis impensæ deliciis prosecutus ingenti se potione proluerat, hospitibus præter morem ebrietatis intemperantiam formidantibus. Ceteris igitur altiores carpentibus somnum, Sueones, quibus scelesti libido propositi communem quietis usum ademerat, cubiculis furtim delabi cœpere Apertur ilico telorum occlusa congeries, et sua sibi quisque tacitus arma connectit Deinde regiam petunt, irruptisque penetralibus in dormientium corpora ferrum destringunt. Experfecti complures, quibus non minus subitæ cladis horror quam somni stupor incesserat, dubio nisu discrimini restitute, socii an hostes occurrerent, noctis errore incertum reddente. Eiusdem forte silentio noctis Hialto, qui

inter regios proceres spectatæ probitatis merito præeminebat, rus egressus, scorti se complexibus dederat. Hic cum obortum pugnae fragorem stupida procul aure sensisset, fortitudinem luxuriæ prætulit, maluitque funestum Martis discrimen appetere, quam blandis Veneris illecebris indulgere. Quanta hunc militem regis caritate flagrasse putemus, qui, cum ignorantiae simulatione excusationem absentiae præstare posset, salutem suam manifesto periculo obicere, quam uoluptati seruare satius existimauit? Discedentem pellex percunctam coepit, si ipso careat, cuius ætatis uiro nubere debeat. Quam Hialto, perinde ac secretius allocuturus, propius accedere iussam, indignatus amoris sibi successorem requiri, præciso naso deformem reddidit, erubescendoque uulnere libidinosæ percunctationis dictum mulctauit, mentis lasciuam oris iactura temperandam existimans. Quo facto, liberum quæsitæ rei iudicium a se ei relinquidixit. Post hæc, repetito ocius oppido, confertissimis se globis immergit, aduersasque acies mutua uulnerum inflictione prosternit. Cumque dormientis adhuc Biarconis cubiculum præteriret, expergisci iussum, tali uoce compellat.

Saxo's translation of the *Bjarkamál* follows. The part which concerns students of *Beowulf* most is the account of how Roluo deposed and slew Røricus

Saxo, Book II, ed. Ascensius, fol. xix a, ed. Holder, p. 62, l. 1

At nos, qui regem uoto meliore ueremur,  
Iungamus cuneos stabiles, tutisque phalangem  
Ordinibus mensi, qua rex præcepit, eamus  
Qui natum Bøki Røricum strauit auari,  
Implicuitque uirum leto uirtute carentem  
Ille quidem præstans opibus, habituque fruendi  
Pauper erat, probitate minus quam fœnore pollens;  
Aurum militia potius ratus, omnia lucro  
Posthabuit, laudisque carens congestit acervos  
Æris, et ingenuis uti contempsit amicis.  
Cumque læcessitus Roluonis classe fuisset,  
Egestum cistis aurum deferre ministros  
Iussit, et in primas urbis diffundere portas,

Dona magis quam bella parans, quia militis expers  
 Munere, non armis, tentandum credidit hostem;  
 Tanquam opibus solis bellum gesturus, et usu  
 Rerum, non hominum, Martem producere posset.  
 Ergo graues loculos et ditia claustra resoluunt,  
 Armillas teretes et onustas protulit arcas,  
 Exitu fomenta sui, ditissimus æris,  
 Bellatoris inops, hostique adimenda relinquens  
 Pignora, quæ patris præbere pepercit amicis.  
 Annellos ultro metuens dare, maxima nolens  
 Pondera fudit opum, ueteris populator acerui  
 Rex tamen hunc prudens, oblataque munera spreuit,  
 Rem pariter uitamque adimens, nec profuit hosti  
 Census iners, quem longo audus cumulauerat æuo.  
 Hunc prius inuasit Roluo, summasque perempti  
 Cepit opes, inter dignos partitus amicos,  
 Quicquid auara manus tantis congesserat annis;  
 Irrumpensque opulenta magis quam fortia castra,  
 Præbuit eximiam sociis sine sanguine prædam.  
 Cui nil tam pulchrum fuit, ut non funderet illud,  
 Aut carum, quod non sociis daret, æra fauillis  
 Assimulans, famaue annos, non fœnore mensus.  
 Unde liquet, regem claro iam funere functum  
 Præclaros egisse dies, speciosaque fati  
 Tempora, præteritos decorasse uiriliter annos  
 Nam uirtute ardens, dum uiueret, omnia uicit,  
 Egregio dignas sortitus corpore uires.  
 Tam præceps in bella fuit, quam concitus amnis  
 In mare decurrit, pugnamque capessere promptus  
 Ut ceruus rapidum bifido pede tendere cursum.

Saxo, Book II, ed. Ascensius, fol. xx1a, ed Holder, p 67, l. 1.

Hanc maxime exhortationum seriem ideo metrica ratione compegerim, quod earundem sententiarum intellectus Danici cuiusdam carminis compendio digestus a compluribus antiquitatis peritis memoriter usurpatur.

Contigit autem, potitis uictoria Gothis, omne Roluonis

agmen occumbere, neminemque, excepto Wiggone, ex tanta iuuentute residuum fore. Tantum enim excellentissimis regis mentis ea pugna a militibus tributum est, ut ipsius cædes omnibus oppetendæ mortis cupiditatem ingeneraret, eique morteungi uita iucundius duceretur.

Lætus Hiartuarus prandendi gratia positus mensis conuiuium pugnae succedere iubet, uictoriam epulis prosecuturus. Quibus oneratus magnæ sibi admirationi esse dixit, quod ex tanta Roluonis militia nemo, qui saluti fuga aut captione consuleret, repertus fuisset. Unde liquidum fuisse quanto fidei studio regis sui caritatem coluerint, cui superstitibus esse passi non fuerint. Fortunam quoque, quod sibi ne unius quidem eorum obsequium superesse permiserit, causabatur, quam libentissime se talium uirorum famulatu usurum testatus. Oblato Wiggone perinde ac munere gratulatus, an sibi militare uellet, perquirunt. Annuenti dstrictum gladium offert. Ille cuspidem refutans, capulum petit, hunc morem Roluoni in porrigendo militibus ense extitisse præfatus. Olim namque se regum clientelæ daturi, tacto gladii capulo obsequium polliceri solebant. Quo pacto Wiggo capulum complexus, cuspidem per Hiartuarum agit, ultionis compos, cuius Roluoni ministerium pollicitus fuerat. Quo facto, ouans irruentibus in se Hiartuari militibus cupidius corpus obtulit, plus uoluptatis se ex tyranni nece quam amaritudinis ex propria sentire uociferans. Ita conuiuium in exequias uerso, uictoriæ gaudium funeris luctus insequitur. Clarum ac semper memorabilem uirum, qui, uoto fortiter expleto, mortem sponte complexus suo ministerio mensas tyranni sanguine maculauit. Neque enim occidentium manus uiuax animi uirtus expauit, cum prius a se loca, quibus Roluo assueuerat, interfectoris eius cruore respersa cognosceret. Eadem itaque dies Hiartuari regnum finiuit ac peperit. Fraudulenter enim quæsitæ res eadem sorte defluunt, qua petuntur, nullusque diuturnus est fructus, qui scelere ac perfidia partus fuerit. Quo euenit ut Sueones, paulo ante Daniæ potiores, ne suæ quidem salutis potientes existerent. Protinus enim a Syalandensibus deleti læsis Roluonis manibus iusta exsoluere piacula. Adeo plerunque fortunæ sæuitia ulciscitur, quod dolo ac fallacia patrat.

B *HRÓLFS SAGA KRAKA*, CAP 23

(ed Finnur Jónsson, København, 1904, p. 65 ff)

Síðan fór Bǫðvarr leið sína til Hleiðargarðs. Hann kemr til konungs atsetu Bǫðvarr leiðir síðan hest sinn á stall hjá konungs hestum hinum beztu ok spyrr engan at, gekk síðan inn í hǫllina, ok var þar fátt manna. Hann sez utarlíga, ok sem hann hefir verit þar litla hríð, heyrir hann þrausk nokkut utar í hornit í einhverjum stað. Bǫðvarr litr þangat ok sér, at mannshönd kemr upp úr mikilli beinahrúgu, er þar lá; höndin var svört mjök. Bǫðvarr gengr þangat til ok spyrr, hverr þar væri í beinahrúgunni, þá var honum svarat ok heldr óframlíga: "Hǫttr heiti ek, Bokki sæll" "Hví ertu hér, segir Bǫðvarr, eða hvat gerir þú?" Hǫttr segir "ek geri mér skjaldborg, Bokki sæll" Bǫðvarr sagði: "vesall ertu þinnar skjaldborgar" Bǫðvarr þrífir til hans ok hnykkir honum upp úr beinahrúgunni. Hǫttr kvað þá hátt við ok mælti "nú viltu mér bana, ger eigi þetta, svá sem ek hefi nú vel um búiz áðr, en þú hefir nú rótat í sundr skjaldborg minni, ok hafða ek nú svá gert hana háva utan at mér, at hún hefir hlíft mér við ǫllum höggum ykkar, svá at engi högg hafa komit á mik lengi, en ekki var hún enn svá búin, sem ek ætlaði hún skyldi verða." Bǫðvarr mælti "ekki muntu fá skjaldborgina lengr." Hǫttr mælti ok grét: "skaltu nú bana mér, Bokki sæll?" Bǫðvarr bað hann ekki hafa hátt, tók hann upp síðan ok bar hann út úr hǫllinni ok til vats nokkurs, sem þar var í nánd, ok gáfu fáir at þessu gaum, ok þó hann upp allan. Síðan gekk Bǫðvarr til þess rúms, sem hann hafði áðr tekit, ok leiddi eptir sér Hǫtt ok þar setr hann Hǫtt hjá sér, en hann er svá hræddr, at skelfr á honum leggr ok liðr, en þó þykkiz hann • skilja, at þessi maðr vill hjálpa sér. Eptir þat kveldar ok drífa menn í hǫllina ok sjá Hrólfs kappar, at Hǫttr er settur á bekk upp, ok þykkir þeim sá maðr hafa gert sík ærit djarfan, er þetta hefir til tekit. Ílt tillit hefir Hǫttr, þá er hann sér kunningja sína, því at hann hefir ílt eitt af þeim reynt; hann vill lífa gjarnan ok fara aptr í beinahrúgu sína, en Bǫðvarr heldr honum, svá at hann nái ekki í burtu at fara, því at hann þóttiz ekki jafnberr fyrir höggum þeira, ef hann næði þangat

at komaz sem hann er nú. Hirðmenn hafa nú sama vanda, ok kasta fyrst beinum smám um þvert gólfít til Bøðvars ok Hattar. Bøðvarr lætr, sem hann sjái eigi þetta. Høttr er svá hræddr, at hann tekr eigi mat né drukk, ok þykkir honum þá ok þá sem hann mun vera lostinn, ok nú mælti Høttr til Bøðvars: “Bokki sæll, nú ferr at þér stór hnúta, ok mun þetta ætlat okkr til nauða.” Bøðvarr bað hann þegja; hann setr við holan lófann ok tekr svá við hnútunni, þar fylgr leggmnn með; Bøðvarr sendi aptr hnútuna ok setr á þann, sem kastaði ok rétt framan í hann með svá harðri svipan, at hann fekk bana; sló þá miklum ótta yfir hirðmennina. Kemr nú þessi fregn fyrir Hrólfr konung ok kappa hans upp í kastalann, at maðr mikilúðligr sé kominn til hallarinnar ok hafi drepit einn hirðmann hans, ok vildu þeir láta drepa manninn. Hrólfr konungr spurðiz eptir, hvárt hirðmaðrinn hefði verit saklauss drepinn “Því var næsta,” sögðu þeir. Kómuz þá fyrir Hrólfr konung öll sannindi hér um Hrólfr konungr sagði þat skyldu fjarri, at drepa skyldi manninn—“hafi þit hér illan vanda upp tekit, at berja saklausa menn beinum; er mér í því óvörðing, en yðr stór skömm, at gera slíkt; hefi ek jafnan rætt um þetta áðr, ok hafi þit at þessu engan gaum gefit, ok hygg ek, at þessi maðr muni ekki alllitill fyrir sér, er þér hafið nú á leitit, ok kallið hann til mín, svá at ek viti, hverr hann er” Bøðvarr gengr fyrir konung ok kveðr hann kurteisliga Konunga spyr hann at nafni “Hattargrða kalla mik hirðmenn yðar, en Bøðvarr heiti ek.” Konungr mælti: “hverjar bætr viltu bjóða mér fyrir hirðmann minn?” Bøðvarr segir: “til þess gerði hann, sem hann fekk” Konungr mælti: “viltu vera minn maðr ok skipa rúm hans?” Bøðvarr segir “ekki neita ek, at vera yðarr maðr, ok munu vit ekki skiljaz svá búit, vit Høttr, ok dveljaz nær þér báðir, heldr en þessi hefir setit, elligar vit fòrum burt báðir” Konungr mælti: “eigi sé ek at honum sæmd en ek spara ekki mat við hann” Bøðvarr gengr nú til þess rúms, sem honum líkaði, en ekki vill hann þat skipa, sem hinn hafði áðr, hann kippir upp í einhverjum stað þremr mǫnnum, ok síðan settuz þeir Høttr þar niðr ok innar í höllinni en þeim var skipat. Heldr þótti mǫnnum ódælt við Bøðvar, ok er þeim hinn mesti íhugi at honum Ok sem leið at jólum,



gerðuz menn ókátir. Bǫðvarr spyr Hǫtt, hverju þetta sætti; hann segir honum, at dýr eitt hafi þar komit tvá vetr í samt, mikit ok ógurligt—"ok hefir vængi á bakinu ok flýgr þat jafnan; tvau haust hefir þat nú hingat vitjat ok gert mikinn skaða, á þat bíta ekki vápn, en kappar konungs koma ekki heim, þeir sem at eru einna mestir" Bǫðvarr mælti: "ekki er hollin svá vel skipuð, sem ek ætlaði, ef eitt dýr skal hér eyða ríki ok fé konungsins." Hǫttr sagði: "þat er ekki dýr, heldr er þat hit mesta tröll" Nú kemr jólaaptann; þá mælti konungr "nú vil ek, at menn sé kyrrir ok hljóðir í nótt, ok banna ek öllum mínum monnum at ganga í nokkurn háska við dýrit, en fé ferr eptir því sem auðnar; menn mína vil ek ekki missa" Allir heita hér góðu um, at gera eptir því, sem konungr bauð. Bǫðvarr leyndiz í burt um nóttina; hann lætr Hǫtt fara með sér, ok gerir hann þat nauðugr ok kallaði hann sér stýrt til bana. Bǫðvarr segir, at betr mundi til takaz þeir ganga í burt frá hollinni, ok verðr Bǫðvarr at bera hann, svá er hann hræddr. Nú sjá þeir dýrit; ok því næst æpir Hǫttr slíkt, sem hann má, ok kvað dýrit mundu gleypa hann. Bǫðvarr bað bikkjuna hans þegja ok kastar honum niðr í mosann, ok þar liggir hann ok eigi með öllu óhræddr, eigi þorir hann heim at fara heldr. Nú gengr Bǫðvarr móti dýrinu; þat hæfir honum, at sverðit er fast í umgjörðinni, er hann vildi bregða því Bǫðvarr eggjar nú fast sverðit ok þá bragðar í umgjörðinni, ok nú fær hann brugðit umgjörðinni, svá at sverðit gengr úr slíðrunum, ok leggr þegar undir bægi dýrsins ok svá fast, at stóð í hjartanu, ok datt þá dýrit til jarðar dautt niðr. Eptir þat ferr hann þangat sem Hǫttr liggir. Bǫðvarr tekr hann upp ok berr þangat, sem dýrit liggir dautt. Hǫttr skelfr ákaft Bǫðvarr mælti: "nú skaltu drekka blóð dýrsins" Hann er lengi tregr, en þó þorir hann víst eigi annat. Bǫðvarr lætr hann drekka tvá sopa stóra; hann lét hann ok eta nokkut af dýrshjartanu, eptir þetta tekr Bǫðvarr til hans, ok áttuz þeir við lengi. Bǫðvarr mælti: "helzt ertu nú sterkr orðinn, ok ekki vænti ek, et þú hræðiz nú hirðmenn Hrólfs konungs" Hǫttr sagði: "eigi mun ek þá hræðaz ok eigi þik upp frá þessu" "Vel er þá orðit, Hǫttr félagi, foru vit nú til ok reisum upp dýrit ok búum svá um, at aðrir ætli at kvíkt muni vera."

Þeir gera nú svá. Eptir þat fara þeir heim ok hafa kýrt um sik, ok veit engi maðr, hvat þeir hafa iðjat. Konungr spyr um morguninn, hvat þeir viti til dýrsins, hvárt þat hafi nökkut þangat vitjat um nóttina; honum var sagt, at fé alt væri heilt í grindum ok ósakat. Konungr bað menn forvitnaz, hvárt engi sæi líkindi til, at þat hefði heim komit. Varðmenn gerðu svá ok kómu skjótt aptr ok sögðu konungi, at dýrit færi þar ok heldr geyst at borginni. Konungr bað hirðmenn vera hrausta ok duga nú hvern eptir því, sem hann hefði hug til, ok ráða af óvætt þenna; ok svá var gert, sem konungr bauð, at þeir bjuggu sik til þess. Konungr horfði á dýrit ok mælti síðan: “enga sé ek fgr á dýrinu, en hverr vill nú taka kaup einn ok ganga í mótu því?” Bǫðvarr mælti: “þat væri næsta hrausts manns forvitnisbót. Hotttr félagi, rektu nú af þér illmælt þat, at menn láta, sem engi krellr né dugr muni í þer vera, far nú ok drep þú dýrit, máttu sjá, at engi er allfúss til annarra.” “Já,” sagði Hotttr, “ek mun til þessa ráðaz.” Konungr mælti: “ekki veit ek, hvaðan þessi hreysti er at þér komin, Hotttr, ok mikit hefir um þik skipaz á skammri stundu.” Hotttr mælti: “gef mér til sverðit Gullinhjalta er þú heldr á, ok skal ek þá fella dýrit eða fá bana.” Hrólfr konungr mælti: “þetta sverð er ekki beranda nema þeim manni, sem bæði er góðr drengr ok hraustr.” Hotttr sagði: “svá skaltu til ætla, at mér sé svá háttat.” Konungr mælti: “hvat má vita, nema fleira hafi skipz um hagi þína, en sjá þykkar, en fæstir menn þykkjaz þik kenna, at þú sér enn sami maðr, nú tak við sverðinu ok njót manna bezt, ef þetta er til unnit.” Síðan gengr Hotttr at dýrinu alldjarfliga ok hogggr til þess, þá er hann kemr í hoggfæri, ok dýrit fellr niðr dautt. Bǫðvarr mælti: “sjáðu nú, herra, hvat hann hefir til unnit.” Konungr segir: “víst hefir hann mikit skipaz, en ekki hefir Hotttr einn dýrit drept, heldr hefir þú þat gert.” Bǫðvarr segir: “vera má, at svá sé.” Konungr segir: “vissa ek, þá er þú komt hér, at fáir mundu þínir jafningjar vera, en þat þykkí mér þó þitt verk fræghagast, at þú hefir gert hér annan kapp. þar er Hotttr er, ok óvænigr þótti til mikillar giptu, ok nú vil ek at hann heita eigi Hotttr lengr ok skal hann heita Hjalt upp frá þessu, skaltu heita eptir sverðinu Gullinhjalta.”

Then Bothvar went on his way to Leire, and came to the king's dwelling

Bothvar stabled his horse by the king's best horses, without asking leave, and then he went into the hall, and there were few men there. He took a seat near the door, and when he had been there a little time he heard a rummaging in a corner. Bothvar looked that way and saw that a man's hand came up out of a great heap of bones which lay there, and the hand was very black. Bothvar went thither and asked who was there in the heap of bones

Then an answer came, in a very weak voice, "Hott is my name, good fellow"

"Why art thou here?" said Bothvar, "and what art thou doing?"

Hott said, "I am making a shield-wall for myself, good fellow"

Bothvar said, "Out on thee and thy shield-wall!" and gripped him and jerked him up out of the heap of bones

Then Hott cried out and said, "Now thou wilt be the death of me. do not do so I had made it all so snug, and now thou hast scattered in pieces my shield-wall, and I had built it so high all round myself that it has protected me against all your blows, so that for long no blows have come upon me, and yet it was not so arranged as I meant it should be"

Then Bothvar said, "Thou wilt not build thy shield-wall any longer"

Hott said, weeping, "Wilt thou be the death of me, good fellow?" Bothvar told him not to make a noise, and then took him up and bore him out of the hall to some water which was close by, and washed him from head to foot Few paid any heed to this

Then Bothvar went to the place which he had taken before, and led Hott with him, and set Hott by his side But Hott was so afraid that he was trembling in every limb, and yet he seemed to know that this man would help him

After that it grew to evening, and men crowded into the hall and Rolf's warriors saw that Hott was seated upon the bench. And it seemed to them that the man must be bold

enough who had taken upon himself to put him there. Hott had an ill countenance when he saw his acquaintances, for he had received naught but evil from them. He wished to save his life and go back to his bone-heap, but Bothvar held him tightly so that he could not go away. For Hott thought that, if he could get back into his bone-heap, he would not be as much exposed to their blows as he was.

Now the retainers did as before, and first of all they tossed small bones across the floor towards Bothvar and Hott. Bothvar pretended not to see this. Hott was so afraid that he neither ate nor drank, and every moment he thought he would be smitten.

And now Hott said to Bothvar, "Good fellow, now a great knuckle bone is coming towards thee, aimed so as to do us sore injury." Bothvar told him to hold his tongue, and put up the hollow of his palm against the knuckle bone and caught it, and the leg bone was joined on to the knuckle bone. Then Bothvar sent the knuckle bone back, and hurled it straight at the man who had thrown it, with such a swift blow that it was the death of him. Then great fear came over the retainers.

Now news came to King Rolf and his men up in the castle that a stately man had come to the hall and killed a retainer, and that the retainers wished to kill the man. King Rolf asked whether the retainer who had been killed had given any offence. "Next to none," they said. Then all the truth of the matter came up before King Rolf.

King Rolf said that it should be far from them to kill the man. "You have taken up an evil custom here in pelting men with bones without quarrel. It is a dishonour to me and a great shame to you to do so. I have spoken about it before, and you have paid no attention. I think that this man whom you have assailed must be a man of no small valour. Call him to me, so that I may know who he is."

Bothvar went before the king and greeted him courteously. The king asked him his name. "Your retainers call me Hott's protector, but my name is Bothvar."

The king said, "What compensation wilt thou offer me for my retainer?"

Bothvar said, "He only got what he asked for."

The king said, "Wilt thou become my man and fill his place?"

Bothvar said, "I do not refuse to be your man, but Hott and I must not part so. And we must sit nearer to thee than this man whom I have slain has sat, otherwise we will both depart together." The king said, "I do not see much credit in Hott, but I will not grudge him meat." Then Bothvar went to the seat that seemed good to him, and would not fill that which the other had before. He pulled up three men in one place, and then he and Hott sat down there higher in the hall than the place which had been given to them. The men thought Bothvar overbearing, and there was the greatest ill will among them concerning him.

And when it drew near to Christmas, men became gloomy. Bothvar asked Hott the reason of this. Hott said to him that for two winters together a wild beast had come, great and awful, "And it has wings on its back, and flies. For two autumns it has attacked us here and done much damage. No weapon will wound it, and the champions of the king, those who are the greatest, come not back."

Bothvar said, "This hall is not so well arrayed as I thought, if one beast can lay waste the kingdom and the cattle of the king." Hott said, "It is no beast: it is the greatest troll."

Now Christmas-eve came; then said the king, "Now my will is that men to-night be still and quiet, and I forbid all my men to run into any peril with this beast. It must be with the cattle as fate will have it: but I do not wish to lose my men." All men promised to do as the king commanded. But Bothvar went out in secret that night; he caused Hott to go with him, but Hott did that only under compulsion, and said that it would be the death of him. Bothvar said that he hoped that it would be better than that. They went away from the hall, and Bothvar had to carry Hott, so frightened was he. Now they saw the beast, and thereupon Hott cried out as loud as he could, and said that the beast would swallow him. Bothvar said, "Be silent, thou dog," and threw him down in the mire. And there he lay in no small fear; but he did not dare to go home, any the more.

Now Bothvar went against the beast, and it happened that his sword was fast in his sheath when he wished to draw it. Bothvar now tugged at his sword, it moved, he wrenched the scabbard so that the sword came out. And at once he plunged it into the beast's shoulder so mightily that it pierced him to the heart, and the beast fell down dead to the earth. After that Bothvar went where Hott lay. Bothvar took him up and bore him to where the beast lay dead. Hott was trembling all over. Bothvar said, "Now must thou drink the blood of the beast." For long Hott was unwilling, and yet he did not dare to do anything else. Bothvar made him drink two great sups, also he made him eat somewhat of the heart of the beast.

After that Bothvar turned to Hott, and they fought a long time

Bothvar said, "Thou hast now become very strong, and I do not believe that thou wilt now fear the retainers of King Rolf."

Hott said, "I shall not fear them, nor thee either, from now on."

"That is good, fellow Hott. Let us now go and raise up the beast, and so array him that others may think that he is still alive." And they did so. After that they went home, and were quiet, and no man knew what they had achieved.

In the morning the king asked what news there was of the beast, and whether it had made any attack upon them in the night. And answer was made to the king, that all the cattle were safe and uninjured in their folds. The king bade his men examine whether any trace could be seen of the beast having visited them. The watchers did so, and came quickly back to the king with the news that the beast was making for the castle, and in great fury. The king bade his retainers be brave, and each play the man according as he had spirit, and do away with this monster. And they did as the king bade, and made them ready.

Then the king faced towards the beast and said, "I see no sign of movement in the beast. Who now will undertake to go against it?"

Bothvar said, "That would be an enterprise for a man of true valour. Fellow Hott, now clear thyself of that ill-repute,

in that men hold that there is no spirit or valour in thee. Go now and do thou kill the beast; thou canst see that there is no one else who is forward to do it "

"Yea," said Hott, "I will undertake this."

The king said, "I do not know whence this valour has come upon thee, Hott; and much has changed in thee in a short time "

Hott said, "Give me the sword Goldenboss, Gullnhjalti, which thou dost wield, and I will fell the beast or take my death " Rolf the king said, "That sword cannot be borne except by a man who is both a good warrior and valiant " Hott said, "So shalt thou ween that I am a man of that kind." The king said, "How can one know that more has not changed in thy temper than can be seen? Few men would know thee for the same man Now take the sword and have joy of it, if this deed is accomplished " Then Hott went boldly to the beast and smote at it when he came within reach, and the beast fell down dead Bothvar said, "See now, my lord, what he has achieved " The king said, "Verily, he has altered much, but Hott has not killed the beast alone, rather hast thou done it " Bothvar said, "It may be that it is so " The king said, "I knew when thou didst come here that few would be thine equals But this seems to me nevertheless thy most honourable work, that thou hast made here another warrior of Hott, who did not seem shaped for much luck And now I will that he shall be called no longer Hott, but Hjalti from this time, thou shalt be called after the sword Gullnhjalti (Goldenboss) "

## C EXTRACTS FROM *GRETTIS SAGA*

(ed G. Magnússon, 1853, R. C. Boer, 1900)

### (a) *Glam episode* (caps 32-35)

Þórhallr hét maðr, er bjó á Þórhallsstöðum í Forsæludal. Forsæludalr er upp af Vatnsdal. Þórhallr var Grímsson, Þórhallssonar, Friðmundarsonar, er nam Forsæludal. Þórhallr átti þá konu, er Guðrún hét. Grímr hét sonr þeirra, en Þuríðr dóttir, þau váru vel á legg komin Þórhallr var vel auðigr

maðr, ok mest at kvikfé, svá at engi maðr átti jafnmart ganganda fé, sem hann. Ekki var hann hofðingi, en þó skilríkr bóndi þar var reimt mjök, ok fekk hann varla sauðamann, svá at honum þœtta duga. Hann leitaði ráðs við marga vitra menn, hvat hann skyldi til bragðs taka; en engi gat þat ráð til gefit, er dygði þórhallr reið til þings hvert sumar. Hann átti hesta góða. Þat var eitt sumar á alþingi, at þórhallr gekk til búðar Skapta lögmanns, þóroddssonar. Skapti var manna vitrastr, ok heilráðr, ef hann var beiddr. Þat skildi með þeim feðgum þóroddr var forspár ok kallaðr undirhyggjumaðr af sumum mönnum, en Skapti lagði þat til með hverjum manni, sem hann ætlaði at duga skyldi, ef eigi væri af því brugðit, því var hann kallaðr betrfeðrungr. Þórhallr gekk í búð Skapta, hann fagnaði vel þórhalli, því hann vissi, at hann var ríkr maðr at fé, ok spurði hvat at tíðendum væri.

Þórhallr mælti “Heilræði vilda ek af yðr þiggja.”

“Í litlum fœrum em ek til þess,” sagði Skapti, “eða hvat stendr þik?”

Þórhallr mælti. “Þat er svá háttat, at mér helz lítt á sauðamönnum. Verðr þeim heldr klakksárt, en sumir gera engar lyktir á. Vill nú engi til taka, sá er kunnigt er til, hvat fyrir býr.”

Skapti svarar “Þar mun liggja meinvættir nokkur, er menn eru tregari til at geyma síðr þíns fjár en annarra manna. Nú fyrir því, at þú hefir at mér ráð sótt, þá skal ek fá þér sauðamann, þann er Glámr heitir, ættaðr ór Svíþjóð, ór Sylgsdölum, er út kom í fyrra sumar, mikill ok sterkr, ok ekki mjök við alþýðu skap.”

Þórhallr kvaz ekki um þat gefa, ef hann geymdi vel fjárins, Skapti sagði qörum eigi vænt horfa, ef hann geymdi eigi fyrir afis sakir ok áræðis, þórhallr gekk þá út. Þetta var at þinglausnum.

Þórhalli var vant hesta tveggja ljósbleikra, ok fór sjálftr at leita, af því þykkjaz menn víta, at hann var ekki mikilmenni. Hann gekk upp undir Sleðás ok suðr með fjalli því, er Ármannsfell heitir. Þá sá hann, hvar maðr fór ofan ór Goðaskógi ok bar hrís á hesti. Brátt bar saman fund þeirra; þórhallr spurði hann at nafni, en hann kvez Glámr heita. Þessi maðr



var mikill vexti ok undarhgr í yfirbragði, bláeygðr ok opineygðr, úlfgrár á hársli. Þórhallr brá nökkut í brún, er hann sá þenna mann; en þó skildi hann, at honum mundi til þessa vísat.

“Hvat er þér best hent at vinna?” segir Þórhallr.

Glámr kvað sér vel hent at geyma sauðfjár á vetrum.

“Viltu geyma sauðfjár míns?” segir Þórhallr; “gaf Skapti þik á mitt vald”

“Svá mun þér hentust mín víst, at ek fari sjálfráðr, því ek em skapstygg, Ef mér líkar eigi vel,” sagði Glámr.

“Ekki mun mér mein at því,” segir Þórhallr, “ok vil ek, at þú farir til mín”

“Gera má ek þat,” segir Glámr, “eða eru þar nökkur vandhœfi á?”

“Reimt þykkir þar vera,” sagði Þórhallr

“Ekki hætðumz ek flykur þær,” sagði Glámr, “ok þykkir mér at ódauflig[r]a”

“Þess muntu við þurfa,” segir Þórhallr, “ok hentar þar betr, at vera eigi alllítill fyrir sér”

Eptir þat kaupa þeir saman, ok skal Glámr koma at vetr-nóttum. Síðan skildu þeir, ok fann Þórhallr hesta sína, þar sem hann hafði nýlentat. Reið Þórhallr heim, ok þakkaði Skapta sinn velgerning

Sumar leið af, ok frétti Þórhallr ekki til sauðamanns, ok engi kunni skyn á honum. En at ánefndum tíma kom hann á þórhallsstaði. Tekr bóndi við honum vel, en öllum gðrum gaz ekki at honum, en húsfreyju þó minst. Hann tók við fjárvarðveizlu, ok varð honum lítat fyrir því, hann var hljóðmíkill ok dimmraddaðr, ok fétt stökk allt saman, þegar hann hóaði. Kirkja var á þórhallsstöðum, ekki vildi Glámr til hennar koma; hann var ósöngvinn ok trúlauss, stírfinn ok viðskotailr, öllum var hann hvímleðr.

Nú leið svá þar til er kemr atfangadagr jóla. Þá stóð Glámr snemma upp ok kallaði til matar síns

Húsfreyja svarar “Ekki er þat háttr kristinna manna, at mataz þenna dag, þvíat á morgin er jóladagr hinn fyrsti,” segir hon, “ok er því fyrst skylt at fasta í dag.”

Hann svarar. “Marga hundvitni hafi þér, þá er ek sé til enskis koma. Veit ek eigi, at mönnum fari nú betr at, heldr

en þá, er menn fóru ekki með slíkt. Þótti mér þá betri siðr, er menn váru heiðnir kallaðir; ok vil ek mat minn en engar refjur "

Húsfreyja mælti: "Víst veit ek, at þér mun illa faraz í dag, ef þú tekr þetta illbrigði til "

Glámr bað hana taka mat í stað, kvað henni annat skyldu vera verra. Hon þorði eigi annat, en at gera, sem hann vildi. Ok er hann var mettr, gekk hann út, ok var heldr gustillr. Veðri var svá farit, at myrkt var um at litaz, ok flograði ór drífa, ok gnýmikit, ok versnaði mjök sem á leið daginn. Heyrðu menn til sauðamanns ondverðan daginn, en miðr er á leið daginn. Tók þá at fjúka, ok gerði á hríð um kveldit, kómu menn til tíða, ok leið svá fram at dagsetri, eigi kom Glámr heim. Var þá um talat, hvárt hans skyldi eigi leita, en fyrir því, at hríð var á ok niðamyrkr, þá varð ekki af leitinni. Kóm hann eigi heim jólanóttina, biðu menn svá fram um tíðir. At ærnium degi fóru menn í leitina, ok fundu féit víða í fönnum, lamit af ofviðri eða hlaupit á fjöll upp. Þvínæst kómu þeir á traðk mikinn ofarlíga í dalnum. Þótti þeim því líkt, sem þar hefði glímt verit heldr sterklíga, þvíat grjótit var víða upp leyst, ok svá jörðin. Þeir hugðu at vandlíga ok sá, hvar Glámr lá, skamt á brott frá þeim. Hann var dauðr, ok blár sem Hel, en dgr sem naut. Þeim bauð af honum óþekt mikla, ok hraus þeim mjök hugr við honum. En þó leituðu þeir við at færa hann til kirkju, ok gátu ekki komit honum, nema á einn gilsþröm þar skamt ofan frá sér; ok fóru heim við svá búit, ok sögðu bónda þenna atburð. Hann spurði, hvat Glámi mundi hafa at bana orðit. Þeir kváðuz rakit hafa spor svá stór, sem keraldsbotni væri niðr skelt þaðan frá, sem traðkrinn var, ok upp undir björg þau, er þar váru ofarlíga í dalnum, ok fylgðu þar með blóðdrefjar miklar. Þat drógu menn saman, at sú meinvættir, er áðr hafði [þar] verit, mundi hafa deytt Glám, en hann mundi fengit hafa henni nokkurn áverka, þann er tekít hafi til fulls, þvíat við þá meinvætti hefir aldri vart orðit síðan. Annan jóladag var enn til farit at færa Glám til kirkju. Váru eykir fyrir beittar, ok gátu þeir hvergi fært hann, þegar sléttlendit var ok eigi var forbrekkis at fara. Gengu nú frá við svá búit. Hinn þriðja dag fór prestir með þeim, ok leituðu allan daginn,

ok Glámr fannz eigi. Eigi vildi prestur optar til fara; en sauðamaðr fannz, þegar prestur var eigi í ferð. Létu þeir þá fyrir vinnaz, at færa hann til kirkju, ok dysjuðu hann þar, sem þá var hann kominn. Lítlu síðar urðu menn varir við þat, at Glámr lá eigi kyrr. Varð mönnum at því mikit mein, svá at margir fellu í óvit, ef sá hann, en sumir heldu eigi vitinu. Þegar eptir jólin þóttuz menn sjá hann heima þar á böenum. Urðu menn ákafliga hræddir, stukku þá margir menn í brott. Þvínæst tók Glámr at ríða húsum á nætr, svá at lá við brotum. Gekk hann þá nálga nætr ok daga. Varla þorðu menn at fara upp í dalinn, þóat ætti nóg órendi. Þótti mönnum þar í heraðinu mikit mein at þessu.

Um vart fekk Þórhallr sér hjón ok gerði bú á jörðu sinni. Tók þá at minka aptrgangr, meðan sólargangr var mestr. Leið svá fram á miðsumar. Þetta sumar kom út skip í Húnavatni; þar var á sá maðr, er þorgautr hét. Hann var útlendr at kyni, mikill ok sterkr; hann hafði tveggja manna afl, hann var lauss ok einn fyrir sér; hann vildi fá starfa nokkurn, því(at) hann var félauss. Þórhallr reið til skips ok fann þorgaut, spurði ef hann vildi vinna fyrir honum, þorgautr kvað þat vel mega vera, ok kvez eigi vanda þat.

“Svá skaltu við búaz,” segir Þórhallr, “sem þar sé ekki veslingsmönnum hent at vera, fyrir aptrgöngum þeim, er þar hafa verit um hrið, en ek vil ekki þik á talar draga.”

Þorgautr svarar. “Eigi þykkjumz ek upp gefinn, þóat ek sjá smáváfur, mun þá eigi öðrum dælt, ef ek hræðumz, ok ekki bregð ek vist minni fyrir þat.”

Nú semr þeim vel kaupstefnan, ok skal þorgautr gæta sauðfjár at vetri.

Leið nú af sumarit. Tók þorgautr við fénu at vetrnáttum. Vel líkaði öllum við hann. Jafnan kom Glámr heim ok reið húsum. Þat þótti þorgauti allkátligt, ok kvað, “þrælinn þurfa mundu nær at ganga, ef ek hræðumz.” Þórhallr bað hann hafa fátt um, “er bezt, at þit reynið ekki með ykkur.”

Þorgautr mælti “Sannliga er skekinn þróttr ór yör, ok dett ek eigi niðr muli dægra við skraf þetta.”

Nú fór svá fram um vetrinn allt til jóla. Atfangakveld jóla fór sauðamaðr til fjár.

þá mælti húsfreyja. "þurfa þóttu mér, at nú fœri eigi at fornum brogðum."

Hann svarar: "Ver eigi hrædd um þat, húsfreyja," sagði hann; "verða mun eitthvert sögulegt, ef ek kem ekki aptr." Síðan gekk hann aptr til fjár síns. Veðr var heldr kalt, ok fjúk mikit. Því var þorgautr vanr, at koma heim, þá er hálfþrökkvat var; en nú kom hann ekki heim í þat mund. Kómu tíðamenn, sem vant var. Þat þótti mönnum eigi ólíkt á horfaz sem fyrr. Bóndi vildi leita láta eptir sauðamanni, en tíðamenn tölduz undan, ok sögðuz eigi mundu hætta ser út í tröllahendr um nætr, ok treystiz bóndi eigi at fara, ok varð ekki af leitinni. Jóladað, er menn váru mettir, fóru menn til ok leituðu sauðamanns. Gengu þeir fyrst til dysjar Gláms, þvíat menn ætluðu af hans völdum mundi orðit um hvarf sauðamanns. En er þeir kómu nær dysinni, sáu þeir þar mikil tíðendi, ok þar fundu þeir sauðamann, ok var hann brotinn á háls, ok lamit sundr hvert bein í honum. Síðan færðu þeir hann til kirkju, ok varð engum manni mein at þorgauti síðan. En Glámr tók at magnaz af nýju. Gerði hann nú svá mikit af sér, at menn allir stukku brott af þórhallsstöðum, utan bóndi einn ok húsfreyja. Nautamaðr hafði þar vent lengi hinn sami. Vildi þórhallr hann ekki lausan láta fyrir góðvilja sakir ok geymslu. Hann var mjök við aldr, ok þótti honum mikit fyrir, at fara á brott, sá hann ok, at allt fór at ónytju, þat er bóndi átti, ef engi geymdi. Ok einn tíma eptir miðjan vetr var þat einn morgin, at húsfreyja fór til fjóss, at mjólka kýr eptir tíma. Þá var alljóst, þvíat engi treystiz fyrir úti at vera annarr en nautamaðr, hann fór út, þegar lýsti. Hon heyrði brak mikit í fjósi, ok beljan gskurliga, hon hljóp inn æpandi ok kvaz eigi vita, hver óðæmi um væri í fjósinu. Bóndi gekk út ok kom til nautanna, ok stangaði hvert annat. Þótti honum þar eigi gott, ok gekk innar at hlöðunni. Hann sá, hvar lá nautamaðr, ok hafði hofuðit í gðrum bási en fœtr í gðrum, hann lá á bak aptr. Bóndi gekk at honum ok þreifaði um hann, finnr brátt, at hann er dauðr ok sundr hrygginn í honum. Var hann brotinn um báshelluna. Nú þótti bónda eigi vært, ok fór í brott af böenum með allt þat, sem hann mátti í brott flytja. En allt kvikfé þat, sem eptir var, deyddi Glámr. Ok þvínæst fór

hann um allan dalinn ok eyddi alla bæi upp frá Tungu Var þórhallr þá með vinum sínum þat [sem] eptir var vetrarins. Engi maðr mátti fara upp í dalinn með hest eðr hund, þvíat þat var þegar drepit En er váraði, ok sólargangr var sem mestr, létti heldr aþrfgöngunum. Vildi þórhallr nú fara aþtr til lands síns. Urðu honum ekki auðfengin hjón, en þó gerði hann bú á þórhallsstöðum. Fór allt á sama veg sem fyrr; þegar at haustaði, tóku at vaxa reimleikar. Var þá mest sótt at bóndadóttur, ok svá fór, at hon léz af því Margra ráða var í leit at, ok varð ekki at gort Þótti mönnum til þess horfaz, at eyðaz mundi allr Vatnsdalr, ef eigi yrði boetr á ráðnar

Nú er þar til at taka, at Grettir Ásmundarson sat heima at Bjargi um haustit, síðan þeir Vígabará skildu á Þóreyjargnúpi. Ok er mjök var komit at vetrnóttum, reið Grettir heiman norðr yfir hálsa til Víðidals, ok gisti á Auðunarstöðum. Sættuz þeir Auðunn til fulls, ok gaf Grettir honum þxi góða, ok mæltu til vináttu með sér Auðunn bjó lengi á Auðunarstöðum ok var kynsæll maðr. Hans sonr var Egill, er átti Úlfheiði, dóttur Eyjólfis Guðmundarsonar, ok var þeira sonr Eyjólftr, er veginn var á alþingi Hann var faðir Orms, kapiláns þorláks biskups Grettir reið norðr til Vatnsdals ok kom á kynnisleit í Tungu þar bjó þá Jökull Bárðarson, móðurbróðir Grettis; Jökull var mikill maðr ok sterkr ok hinn mesti ofsa-maðr. Hann var siglingamaðr, ok mjök ódæll, en þó mikil-hœfr maðr Hann tók vel við Gretti, ok var hann þar þrjár nætr þá var svá mikit orð á aþrfgöngum Gláms, at mönnum var ekki jafntíðrætt sem þat Grettir spurði inniliga at þeim atburðum, er höfðu orðit, Jökull kvað þar ekki meira af sagt en til væri hæft, “eða er þér forvitnu á, frændi! at koma þar?”

Grettir sagði, at þat var satt

Jökull bað hann þat eigi gera, “því þat er gæfuraun mikil; en frændr þínir eiga mikit í hættu, þar sem þú ert,” sagði hann, “þykkir oss nú engi slíkr af ungum mönnum sem þú, en illt mun af illum hljóta, þar sem Glámr er. Er ok miklu betra, at fáz við mennska menn en við óvættir slíkar”

Grettir kvað sér hug á, at koma á Þórhallsstaði, ok sjá, hversu þar væri um gengit.

Jökull mælti: "Sé ek nú, at eigi tjáir at letja þik, en satt er þat sem mælt er, at sitt er hvárt, gæfa eða gervigleikr."

"Þá er qðrum vá fyrir dyrum, er qðrum er inn um komit, ok hygg at, hversu þér mun fara sjálfum, áðr lýkr," kvað Grettir.

Jökull svarar "Vera kann, at vit sjáim báðir nqkkut fram, en hvárrgi fáu við gort."

Eptir þat skildu þeir, ok líkaði hváringum annars spár.

Grettir reið á þórhallsstaði, ok fagnaði bœndi honum vel. Hann spurði, hvert Grettir ætlaði at fara, en hann segiz þar vilja vera um nóttina, ef bónda líkaði, at svá væri þórhallr kvaz þokk fyrir kunna, at hann væri þar, "en fám þykkir slœgr til at gista hér um tíma, muntu hafa heyrt getit um, hvat hér er at væla En ek vilda gjarna, at þú hlytir engi vandræði af mér En þóat þú komiz heill á brott, þá veit ek fyrir víst, at þú missir hests þíns, því engi heldr hér heilum sínum fararskjóta, sá er kemr"

Grettir kvað gott til hesta, hvat sem af þessum yrði

Þórhallr varð glaðr við, er Grettir vildi þar vera, ok tók við honum báðum hqndum Var hestr Grettis læstr í húsi sterklíga Þeir fóru til svefns, ok leið svá af nóttin, at ekki kom Glámr heim

Þá mælti þórhallr: "Vel hefir brugðit við þína kvámu, þvíat hverja nótt er Glámr vanr at ríða húsum eða brjóta upp hurðir, sem þú mátt merki sjá"

Grettir mælti "Þá mun vera annathvárt, at hann mun ekki lengi á sér sitja, eða mun af venjaz meirr en eina nótt Skal ek vera hér nótt aðra ok sjá, hversu ferr"

Síðan gengu þeir til hests Grettis, ok var ekki við hann glez. Allt þótti bónda at einu fara Nú er Grettir þar aðra nótt, ok kom ekki þrællinn heim. Þá þótti bónda mjok vænkaz Fór hann þá at sjá hest Grettis Þá var upp brotit húsit, er bóndi kom til, en hestrinn dreginn til dya útar, ok lamit í sundr í honum hvert bein.

Þórhallr sagði Gretti, hvar þá var komit, ok bað hann forða sér: "Þvíat viss er dauðinn, ef þú bíðr Gláms"

Grettir svarar: "Eigi má ek minna hafa fyrir hest minn, en at sjá þrællinn."

Bóndi sagði, at þat var eigi batí, at sjá hann, "þvíat hann er ólíkr nokkurri mannlígrí mynd, en góð þykki mér hver sú stund, er þú vilt hér vera "

Nú líör dagrinn; ok er menn skyldu fara til svefnis, vildi Grettir eigi fara af klæðum, ok lagðiz niör í setit gegnt lokrekkju bónda. Hann hafði roggvarfeld yfir sér, ok knepti annat skautit niör undir föetr sér, en annat snaraði hann undir höfuð sér, ok sá út um höfuðsmáttina. Setstokkr var fyrir framan setit, mjök sterkt, ok spyndi hann þar í. Dyraumbúningrinn allr var frá brotinn útidyrnunum, en nú var þar fyrir bundinn hurðarflaki, ok óvendlíga um búit. Þverþilit var allt brotit frá skálanum, þat sem þar fyrir framan hafði verit, bæði fyrir ofan þvertréit ok neðan. Sængr allar váru ór stað færðar. Heldr var þar óvistuhgt. Ljós brann í skálanum um nóttina. Ok er af mundi þriðjungr af nótt, heyrði Grettir út dynur miklar. Var þá farit upp á húsin, ok riðit skálanum ok barit hælunum, svá at brakaði í hverju tré. Því gekk lengi, þá var farit ofan af húsunum ok til dyra gengit. Ok er upp var lokit hurðunni, sá Grettir, at þrellinn rétti inn höfuðit, ok sýndiz honum afskræmilíga mikít ok undarlíga stórskorit. Glámr fór seint ok réttiz upp, er hann kom inn í dyrnar, hann gnæfaði ofarlíga við ræfrinu, snýr at skálanum ok lagði handleggina upp á þvertréit, ok gægðiz inn yfir skálann. Ekki lét bóndi heyra til sín, þvíat honum þótti óerit um, er hann heyrði, hvat um var úti. Grettir lá kyrr ok hræði sík hvergi. Glámr sá, at hrúga nokkur lá í setinu, ok réz nú innar eptir skálanum ok þreif í feldinn stundarfast. Grettir spyndi í stokkinn, ok gekk því hvergi. Glámr hnykti í annat sinn miklu fastara, ok bifaðiz hvergi feldrinn. Í þriðja sinn þreif hann í með báðum höndum svá fast, at hann rétti Gretti upp ór setinu, kiptu nú í sundr feldinum í millum sín. Glámr leit á slítrit, er hann helt á, ok undraðiz mjök, hverr svá fast mundi togaz við hann. Ok í því hljóp Grettir undir hendr honum, ok þreif um hann miðjan, ok spenti á honum hrygginn sem fastast gat hann, ok ætlaði hann, at Glámr skyldi kíkna við. En þrellinn lagði at handleggjum Grettis svá fast, at hann hörfaði allr fyrir orku sakir. Fór Grettir þá undan í ýms setin. Gengu þá frá stokkarnir, ok allt brotnaði, þat sem fyrir varð. Vildi

Glámr leita út, en Grettir færði við föetr, hvar sem hann mátti. En þó gat Glámr dregit hann fram ór skálanum. Áttu þeir þá allharða sókn, þvíat þrællinn ætlaði at koma honum út ór böenum; en svá illt sem var at eiga við Glám inni, þá sá Grettir, at þó var verra, at fáz við hann úti; ok því brauz hann í móti af öllu afli at fara út. Glámr færðiz í aukana, ok knepti hann at sér, er þeir kómu í anddyrit. Ok er Grettir sér, at hann fekk eigi við spornat, hefir hann allt eitt atríðit, at hann hleypr sem harðast í fang þrælnum ok spyrnir báðum fótum í jarðfastan stein, er stóð í dyrunum. Við þessu bjóz þrællinn eigi, hann hafði þá togaz við at draga Gretti at sér, ok því kiknaði Glámr á bak aptr, ok rauk öfugr út á dyrnar, svá at herðarnar námu uppdyrit, ok ræfrit gekk í sundr, bæði viðirnir ok þekjan frerin; fell hann svá opinn ok öfugr út ór húsunum, en Grettir á hann ofan. Tunglskin var mikit úti ok gluggaþykk, hratt stundum fyrir, en stundum dró frá. Nú í því, er Glámr fell, rak skýit frá tunglinu, en Glámr hvesti augun upp í móti. Ok svá hefir Grettir sagt sjálf, at þá eina sýn hafi hann sét svá, at honum brygði við. Þá sigaði svá at honum af öllu saman, mæði ok því, er hann sá at Glámr gaut sínum sjónum harðliga, at hann gat eigi brugðit saxinu, ok lá nálíga í milli heims ok heljar. En því var meiri ófagnaðarkraptr með Glámi en flestum öðrum aptrgöngumönnum, at hann mælti þá á þessa leið: "Mikit kapp hefir þú á lagt, Grettir," sagði hann, "at finna mik. En þat mun eigi undarligt þykkja, þóat þú hljóttir ekki mikit happ af mér. En þat má ek segja þér, at þú hefir nú fengið helming afis þess ok þroska, er þér var ætlaðr, ef þú hefir mik ekki fundit. Nú fæ ek þat afli eigi af þér tekit, er þú hefir áðr hrept; en því má ek ráða, at þú verðr aldri sterkari en nú ertu, ok ertu þó nógu sterk, ok at því mun mörgum verða. Þú hefir frægr orðit hér til af verkum þínum, en heðan af munu falla til þín sektir ok vígaferli, en flest öll verk þín snúaz þér til ógæfu ok hamingjuleysis. Þú munt verða útlægr gorr, ok hljóta jafnan úti at búa einn samt. Þá legg ek þat á við þik, at þessi augu sé þér jafnan fyrir sjónum, sem ek ber eptir, ok mun þér erfitt þykkja, einum at vera, ok þat mun þér til dauða draga."

Ok sem þrællinn hafði þetta mælt, þá rann af Gretti ómegni,



þat sem á honum hafði verit. Brá hann þá saxinu ok hjó hofuð af Glámu ok setti þat við þjó honum. Bóndi kom þá út, ok hafði klæð, á meðan Glámr lét ganga töluna, en hvergi þorði hann nær at koma, fyrr en Glámr var fallinn. Þórhallr lofaði guð fyrir, ok þakkaði vel Gretti, er hann hafði unnit þenna óhreina anda. Fóru þeir þá til, ok brendu Glám at koldum kolum. Eptir þat [báru þeir gsku hans í eina hit ok] grófu þar niðr, sem sízt váru fjárhagar eða mannavagir. Gengu heim eptir þat, ok var þá mjök komit at degi. Lagðuz Grettir niðr, þvíat hann var stíðr mjök. Þórhallr sendi menn á næstu bæi eptir monnum, sýndi ok sagði, hversu farit hafði. Öllum þótti mikils um vert um þetta verk, þeim er heyrðu. Var þat þá almælt, at engi væri þvílíkr maðr á öllu landinu fyrir afis sakir ok hreysti ok allrar atgervi, sem Grettir Ásmundarson.

Þórhallr leysti Gretti vel af garði ok gaf honum góðan hest ok klæði sömuhg, því[at] þau váru öll sundr leyst, er hann hafði áðr borit. Skildu þeir með vínáttu. Reið Grettir þaðan í Ás í Vatnsdal, ok tók þorvaldr við honum vel ok spurði inniliga at sameign þeira Gláms, en Grettir segir honum viðskipti þeira, ok kvaz aldri í þvílíka afraun komit hafa, svá langa viðreign sem þeir höfðu saman átt.

Þorvaldr bað hann hafa sík spakan, "ok mun þá vel duga, en ella mun þér slysgjarnt verða."

Grettir kvað ekki batnat hafa um lyndisbragðit, ok sagðiz nú miklu verr stíltir en áðr, ok allar mótgerðir verri þykkja. Á því fann hann mikla muni, at hann var orðinn maðr svá myrkfælnn, at hann þorði hvergi at fara einn saman, þegar myrkva tók. Sýndiz honum þá hvers kyns skrípi, ok þat er haft síðan fyrir orðtæki, at þeim ljái Glámr augna eðr gefi glámsýni, er mjök sýniz annan veg, en er Grettir reið heim til Bjargs, er hann hafði gort órendi sín, ok sat heima um vetrinn.

(b) *Sandhaugar episode* (caps 64-66)

Steinn hét prestur, er bjó at Eyjardalsá í Bárðardal. Hann var búþegn góðr ok ríkr at fé. Kjartan hét son hans, roskr maðr ok vel á legg komunn. Þorsteinn hvíti hét maðr, er

bjó at Sandhaugum, suðr frá Eyjardalsá. Steinvör hét kona hans, ung ok glaðlát þau áttu börn, ok vǫru þau ung í þenna tíma. Þar þótti mönnum reimt mjök sakir tröllagangs þat þar til, tveim vetrum fyrr en Grettir kom norðr í sveitir, at Steinvör húsfreyja at Sandhaugum fór til jólatíða til Eyjardalsár eptir vana, en bóndi var heima. Lögðuz menn niðr til svefns um kveldit, ok um nóttina heyrðu menn brak mikit í skálann, ok til sængr bónda. Engi þorði upp at standa at forvitnaz um, þvíat þar var fáment mjök. Húsfreyja kom heim um morguninn, ok var bóndi horfinn, ok vissi engi, hvat af honum var orðit. Liðu svá hin næstu misseri. En annan vetr eptir, vildi húsfreyja fara til tíða, bað hon húskarl sinn heima vera. Hann var tregr til, en bað hana ráða. Fór þar allt á sömu leið, sem fyrr, at húskarl var horfinn. Þetta þótti mönnum undarligt. Sáu menn þá blóðdrefjar nokkurar í úti-dyrum þóttuz menn þat vita, at óvættir mundu hafa tekit þá báða. Þetta fréttiz víða um sveitir. Grettir hafði spurn af þessu. Ok með því at honum var mjök lagit at koma af reimeikum eða aptergongum, þá gerði hann ferð sína til Bárðardals, ok kom atfangadag jóla til Sandha[u]ga. Hann duldiz ok nefndiz Gestr. Húsfreyja sá, at hann var furðu mikill vexti, en heimafólk var furðu hrætt við hann. Hann beiddiz þar gistingar. Húsfreyja kvað honum mat til reiðu, "en ábyrgz þik sjálfr."

Hann kvað svá vera skyldu. "Mun ek vera heima," segir hann, "en þú far til tíða, ef þú vilt."

Hon svarar. "Mér þykkir þú hraustr, ef þú þorir heima at vera."

"Eigi læt ek mér at einu getit," sagði hann.

"Illt þykkir mér heima at vera," segir hon, "en ekki komumz ek yfir ána."

"Ek skal fylgja þér yfir," segir Gestr.

Síðan bjóz hon til tíða, ok dóttir hennar með henni, lítill vexti. Hlaka mikil var úti, ok áin í leysingum, var á henni jakaför.

Þá mælti húsfreyja: "Ófært er yfir ána, bæði mönnum ok hestum."

"Vgð munu á vera," kvað Gestr; "ok verð eigi hræddar."

“Ber þú fyrst meyna,” kvað húsfreyja, “hon er léttari.”

“Ekki nenni ek at gera tvær ferðir at þessu,” segir Gestr, “ok mun ek bera þik á handlegg mér.”

Hon signdi sik ok mælti “Þetta er ófæra; eða hvat gerir þú þá af meyjunni?”

“Sjá mun ek ráð til þess,” segir hann, ok greip þær upp báðar ok setti hina yngri í kné móður sinnar, ok bar þær svá á vinstra armlegg sér; en hafði lausa hina hœgru hönd ok óð svá út á vaðit. Engi þorðu þær at cepa, svá váru þær hræddar. En áin skall þegar upp á brjósti honum þá rak at honum jaka mikinn, en hann skaut við hendi þeirri, er laus var, ok hratt frá sér. Gerði þá svá djúpt, at strauminn braut á gxlhinni. Óð hann sterkliga, þar til er hann kom at bakkanum gðrum megin, ok fleygir þeim á land. Síðan sneri hann aptr, ok var þá hálfrokkvit, er hann kom heim til Sandhauga; ok kallaði til matar. Ok er hann var mettr, bað hann heimafólk fara innar í stofu. Hann tók þá borð ok lausa viðu, ok rak um þvera stofuna, ok gerði bálk mikinn, svá at engi heimamaðr komz fram yfir. Engi þorði í móti honum at mæla, ok í engum skyldi kretta. Gengit var í hlövegginn stofunnar inn við gashlaðit, ok þar þverpallr hjá. Þar lagðiz Gestr niðr ok fór ekki af klæðunum. Ljós brann í stofunni gegnt dyrum. Liggr Gestr svá fram á nóttina.

Húsfreyja kom til Eyjardalsár til tíða, ok undruðu menn um ferðir hennar yfir ána. Hon sagðiz eigi vita, hvárt hana hefði yfir flutt maðr eða tröll. Prestir kvað mann víst vera mundu, þóat fárra maki sé, “ok látum hljótt yfir,” sagði hann, “má vera, at hann sé atlaðr til at vinna bót á vandræðum þínum.” Var húsfreyja þar um nóttina.

Nú er frá Gretti þat at segja, at þá er dró at miðri nótt, heyrði hann út dynur miklar. Þvínæst kom inn í stofuna tröllkona mikil. Hon hafði í hendi trog, en annarrí skálm, heldr mikla. Hon litaz um, er hon kom inn, ok sá, hvar Gestr lá, ok hljóp at honum, en hann upp í móti, ok réðuz á grimmliga ok sóttuz lengi í stofunni. Hon var sterkari, en hann fór undan kœnliga. En allt þat, sem fyrir þeim varð, brutu þau, jafnvel þverþilit undan stofunni. Hon dró hann fram yfir dyrnar, ok svá í anddyrit, þar tók hann fast í móti. Hon

vildi draga hann út ór bönum, en þat varð eigi fyrr en þau leystu frá allan útidyraumbúninginn ok báru hann út á herðum sér. Þæfi hon þá ofan til árinna ok allt fram at gljúfrum þá var Gestr ákafliga móðr, en þó varð annathvært at gera at herða sik, ella mundi hon steypa honum í gljúfrin. Alla nóttina sóttuz þau. Eigi þóttiz hann hafa fengiz við þvílíkan ófagnað fyrir afis sakir. Hon hafði haldið honum svá fast at sér, at hann mátti hváinn hendi taka til nökkurs, útan hann helt um hana mjöja klettjuna. Ok er þau komu á árgljúfið, bregðr hann flögðkonunni til sveiflu. Í því varð honum laus hin hægri höndin. Hann þreif þá skjótt til saxins, er hann var gyrðr með, ok bregðr því, hoggðr þá á oxl tröllinu, svá at af tók höndina hægri, ok svá varð hann lauss. En hon steyptiz í gljúfrin ok svá í fossinn. Gestr var þá bæði stíðr ok móðr, ok lá þar lengi á hamrinum. Gekk hann þá heim, er lýsa tók, ok lagðiz í rekkju. Hann var allr þrúinn ok blár.

Ok er húsfreyja kom frá tíðum, þótti henni heldr raskat um hýbýli sín. Gekk hon þá til Gestis ok spurði, hvat til hefði borið, er allt var brotið ok bælt. Hann sagði allt, sem farið hafði. Henni þótti mikils um vert, ok spurði, hverr hann var. Hann sagði þá til hit sanna, ok bað sækja prest ok kvaz vildu finna hann. Var ok svá gort. En er Steinn prestur kom til Sandhauga, varð hann brátt þess viss, at þar var kominn Grettir Ásmundarson, er Gestr nefndiz. Presti spurði, hvat hann ætlaði af þeim mönnum mundi vera orðit, er þar höfðu horfit. Grettir kvaz ætla, at í gljúfrin mundu þeir hafa horfit. Prestur kvaz eigi kunna at leggja trúnað á sagnir hans, ef engi merki mætti til sjá. Grettir segir, at síðar vissi þeir þat góðr. Fór prestur heim. Grettir lá í rekkju margar nætr. Húsfreyja gerði við hann harðla vel, ok leið svá af jólin. Þetta er sagn Grettis, at tröllkonan steypðiz í gljúfrin við, er hon fekk sárít, en Bárðardalsmenn segja, at hana dagaði uppi, þá er þau glímdu, ok spryngi, þá er hann hjó af henni höndina, ok standi þar enn í konu líking á bjarginu. Þeir dalbúarnir leyndu þar Gretti.

Um vetrinn eptir jól var þat einn dag, at Grettir fór til Eyjardalsár. Ok er þeir Grettir funduz ok prestur, mælti Grettir. “Sé ek þat, prestur,” segir hann, “at þú leggr lítinn

trúnað á sagnir mínar Nú vil ek at þú farir með mér til árinna, ok sjáir, hver líkendi þér þykkir á vera."

Prestr gerði svá. En er þeir kómu til fossins, sáu þeir skúta upp undir bergat, þat var meitilberg svá mikit, at hvergi mátti upp komaz, ok nær tíu faðma ofan at vatninu. Þeir höfðu festi með sér.

Þá mælti prestr. "Langt um ófært sýniz mér þér niðr at fara"

Grettir svarar "Fært er víst, en þeim mun bezt þar, sem ágætismenn eru Mun ek forvitnaz, hvat í fossinum er, en þú skalt geyma festar"

Prestr bað hann ráða, ok keyrði niðr hæl á berginu, ok bar at grjóti, [ok sat þar hjá]

Nú er frá Gretti at segja, at hann lét stein í festaraugat ok lét svá síga ofan at vatninu.

"Hvern veg ætlar þú nú," segir prestr, "at fara?"

"Ekki vil ek vera bundinn," segir Grettir, "þá er ek kem í fossinn, svá boðar mér hugr um"

Eptir þat bjó hann sik til ferdar, ok var fáklæddr, ok gyrði sik með saxinu, en hafði ekki fleiri vápn Síðan hljóp hann af bjarginu ok niðr í fossinn Sá prestr í iljar honum, ok vissi síðan aldri, hvat af honum varð Grettir kafaði undir fossinn, ok var þat torvelt, þvíat iða var mikit, ok varð hann allt til grunns at kafa, áðr en hann kœmiz upp undir fossinn Þar var forberg nokkut, ok komz hann inn þar upp á Þar var hellir mikill undir fossinum, ok fell áin fram af berginu. Gekk hann þá inn í hellinn, ok var þar eldr mikill á bröndum Grettir sá, at þar sat jötunn ogurhga mikill, hann var hræðiligr at sjá En er Grettir kom at honum, hljóp jötunninn upp ok greip flein einn ok hjó til þess, er kominn var, þvíat bæði mátti hoggva ok leggja með [honum] Tréskapt var í, þat klluðu menn þá heptisax, er þannveg var gørt Grettir hjó á móti með saxinu, ok kom á skaptit, svá at í sundr tók Jötunninn vildi þá seilaz á bak sér aptr til sverðs, er þar hekk í hellinum Í því hjó Grettir framan á brjóstit, svá at nálga tók af alla bringspelna ok kvíðinn, svá at iðrin steiptuz ór honum ofan í ána, ok keyrði þau ofan eptir ánni Ok er prestr sat við festina, sá hann, at slyðrur nokkurar rak ofan eptir strengnum blóðugar

allar. Hann varð þá lauss á velh, ok þóttiz nú vita, at Grettir mundi dauðr vera. Hjóp hann þá frá festarhaldiinu ok fór heim. Var þá komit at kveldi, ok sagði prestr víshga, at Grettir væri dauðr, ok sagði, at mikill skaði væri eptir þvilíkan mann.

Nú er frá Gretti at segja, hann lét skamt hoggva í milli, þar til er jotunninn dó. Gekk Grettir þá innar eptir hellinum. Hann kveikti ljós ok kannaði hellinn. Ekki er frá því sagt, hversu mikit fé hann fekk í hellinum, en það ætla menn, at verit hafi nokkut. Dvaldiz honum þar fram á nóttina. Hann fann þar tveggja manna bein, ok bar þau í belg einn. Leitaði hann þá ór hellinum ok lagðiz til festarinnar, ok hrísti hana, ok ætlaði, at prestr mundi þar vera. En er hann vissi, at prestr var heim farinn, varð hann þá at handstyrkja upp festina, ok komz hann svá upp á bjargit. Fór hann þá heim til Eyjardalsár ok kom í forkirkju belginum þeim, sem beinin váru í, ok þar með rúnakefli því, er vísur þessar váru forkunnhga vel á ristnar

“Gekk ek í gljúfr et dökkva  
gein veltiflug steina,  
við hjörgæfi hríðar  
hlunns úrsvolum munni,  
fast lá framm á brjósti  
flugstraumur í sal naumu  
heldr kom á herþar skáldi  
hörð fjón Braga kvónar”

Ok en þessi

“Ljótr kom mér í móti  
mellu vinr ór heli,  
hann fekk, heldr at sonnu  
harþfengr, við mik lengi,  
harþeggjat lét ek hoggvit  
heptisax af skepti,  
Gangs klauf brjóst ok bringu  
þjartr gunnlogi svartar”

<sup>1</sup> See Finnur Jónsson, *Den Norsk-Islandske Skjaldedigtning*, B u 473-4.

þar sagði svá, at Grettir hafi þeim þessi ór hellinum haft. En er prestur kom til kirkju um morguninn, fann hann keflit ok þat sem fylgdi, ok las rúnarnar. En Grettir hafði farit heim til Sandhauga.

En þá er prestur fann Gretti, spurði hann inniliga eptir atburðum, en hann sagði alla sögu um ferð sína, ok kvað prest ótrúliga hafa haldið festinni. Prestur lét þat á sannaz þóttuz menn þat vita, at þessar óvættir mundu valdið hafa manna-hvörfum þar í dalnum. Varð ok aldri mein af aptergöngum eða reimleikum þar í dalnum síðan. Þótti Grettir þar gort hafa mikla landhreinsan. Prestur jarðaði þeim þessi í kirkju-garði.

#### TRANSLATION OF EXTRACTS FROM *GRETTIS SAGA*

The *Grettis saga* was first printed in the middle of the eighteenth century, in Iceland (Márússon, *Nockrer Margrøder Sögu-fættir*, 1756, pp. 81-163). It was edited by Magnússon and Thordarson, Copenhagen, 1853, with a Danish translation, and again by Boer (*Altnordische Saga-bibliothek*, Halle, 1900). An edition was also printed at Reykjavik in 1900, edited by V. Ásmundarson.

There are over forty MSS of the saga. *Cod Arn Mag 551 a* (quoted in the notes below as A) forms the basis of all three modern editions. Boer has investigated the relationship of the MSS (*Die handschriftliche Überlieferung der Grettissaga*, *Z f d Ph* xxxi, 40-60), and has published, in an appendix to his edition, the readings of five of the more important, in so far as he considers that they can be utilized to amend the text supplied by A.

The reader who consults the editions of both Magnússon and Boer will be struck by the differences in the text, although both are following the same MS. Many of these differences are, of course, due to the fact that the editors are normalizing the spelling, but on different principles; many others, however, are due to the extraordinary difficulty of the MS itself. Mr. Sigfrús Blondal, of the Royal Library of Copenhagen, has examined *Cod Arn Mag 551 a* for me, and he writes:

It is the very worst MS I have ever met with. The writing is small, almost every word is abbreviated, and, worst of all, the writing is in many places effaced, partly by smoke (I suppose the MS needs must have been lying for years in some smoky and damp *baðstofa*) rendering the parchment almost as black as shoe-leather, but still more owing to the use of chemicals, which modern editors have been obliged to use, to make sure of what there really was in the text. By the use of much patience and a lens, one can read it, though, in most places. Unfortunately, this does not apply to the *Glámur* episode, a big portion of which belongs to the very worst part of the MS, and the readings of that portion are therefore rather uncertain."

The Icelandic text given above agrees in the main with that in the excellent edition of Boer, to whom, in common with all students of the

*Grettis saga*, I am much indebted but I have frequently adopted in preference a spelling or wording nearer to that of Magnússon. In several of these instances (notably the spelling of the verses attributed to Grettur) I think Prof. Boer would probably himself agree.

The words or letters placed between square brackets are those which are not to be found in *Cod. Arn. Mag. 551 a*.

To Mr. Blondal, who has been at the labour of collating with the MS, for my benefit, both the passages given above, my grateful thanks are due.

There are English translations of the *Grettis saga* by Morris and E. Magnússon (1869, and in Morris' *Works*, 1911, vol. VII) and by G. A. Hight (*Everyman's Library*, 1914).

For a discussion of the relationship of the *Grettis saga* to other stories, see also Boer, *Zus. Grettissaga*, in *Zfd Ph.* xxx, 1-71.

(a) *Glam episode* (p. 146 above)

There was a man called Thorhall, who lived at Thorhall's Farm in Shadow-dale. Shadow-dale runs up from Water-dale. Thorhall was son of Grim, son of Thorhall, son of Frithmund, who settled Shadow-dale. Thorhall's wife was called Guthrun; their son was Grim, and Thurith their daughter—they were grown up.

Thorhall was a wealthy man, and especially in cattle, so p. 147 that no man had as much live stock as he. He was not a chief, yet a substantial yeoman. The place was much haunted, and he found it hard to get a shepherd to suit him. He sought counsel of many wise men, what device he should follow, but he got no counsel which was of use to him. Thorhall rode each summer to the All-Thing; he had good horses. That was one summer at the All-Thing, that Thorhall went to the booth of Skapti Thoroddsson, the Law-man.

Skapti was the wisest of men, and gave good advice if he was asked. There was this difference between Skapti and his father Thorodd: Thorodd had second sight, and some men called him underhanded, but Skapti gave to every man that advice which he believed would avail, if it were kept to: so he was called 'Better than his father'. Thorhall went to the booth of Skapti. Skapti greeted Thorhall well, for he knew that he was a prosperous man, and asked what news he had.

Thorhall said, "I should like good counsel from thee." "I am little use at that," said Skapti. "But what is thy need?"



Thorhall said, "It happens so, that it is difficult for me to keep my shepherds: they easily get hurt, and some will not serve their time. And now no one will take on the task, who knows what is before him."

Skapti answered, "There must be some evil being about, if men are more unwilling to look after thy sheep than those of other folk. Now because thou hast sought counsel of me, I will find thee a shepherd, who is named Glam, a Swede, from Sylgsdale, who came out to Iceland last summer. He is great and strong, but not much to everybody's taste."

Thorhall said that he would not mind that, if he guarded the sheep well. Skapti said that if Glam had not the strength and courage to do that, there was no hope of anyone else. Then Thorhall went out, this was when the All-Thing was nearly ending.

Thorhall missed two light bay horses, and he went himself to look for them—so it seems that he was not a great man. He went up under Sledge-hill and south along the mountain called Armannsfell.

Then he saw where a man came down from Gothashaw, bearing faggots on a horse. They soon met, and Thorhall asked him his name, and he said he was called Glam. Glam p 148 was tall and strange in bearing, with blue<sup>1</sup> and glaring eyes, and wolf-grey hair. Thorhall opened his eyes when he saw him, but yet he discerned that this was he to whom he had been sent.

"What work art thou best fitted for?" said Thorhall.

Glam said he was well fitted to watch sheep in the winter.

"Wilt thou watch my sheep?" said Thorhall. "Skapti gave thee into my hand."

"You will have least trouble with me in your house if I go my own way, for I am hard of temper if I am not pleased," said Glam.

"That will not matter to me," said Thorhall, "and I wish that thou shouldst go to my house."

"That may I well do," said Glam, "but are there any difficulties?"

<sup>1</sup> MS A, followed by Magnússon, makes Glam *bláeygðr*, "blue eyed." Boer reads *gráeygðr*, considering grey a more uncanny colour.

"It is thought to be haunted," said Thorhall.

"I am not afraid of such phantoms," said Glam, "and it seems to me all the less dull."

"Thou wilt need such a spirit," said Thorhall, "and it is better that the man there should not be a coward"

After that they struck their bargain, and Glam was to come at the winter-nights [14th-16th of October] Then they parted, and Thorhall found his horses where he had just been searching Thorhall rode home and thanked Skapti for his good deed

Summer passed, and Thorhall heard nothing of his shepherd, and no one knew anything of him, but at the time appointed he came to Thorhall's Farm The yeoman greeted him well, but all the others could not abide him, and Thorhall's wife least of all Glam undertook the watching of the sheep, and it gave him little trouble He had a great deep voice, and the sheep came together as soon as he called them There was a church at Thorhall's Farm, but Glam would not go to it He would have nothing to do with the service, and was godless; he was obstinate and surly and abhorred by all

Now time went on till it came to Yule eve Then Glam rose early and called for meat The yeoman's wife answered, "That is not the custom of Christian men to eat meat today, because tomorrow is the first day of Yule," said she, "and therefore it is right that we should first fast today"

He answered, "Ye have many superstitions which I see are good for nothing I do not know that men fare better now than before, when they had nought to do with such things It p 149 seemed to me a better way when men were called heathen, and I want my meat and no tricks"

The yeoman's wife said, "I know for a certainty that it will fare ill with thee today, if thou dost this evil thing"

Glam bade her bring the meat at once, else he said it should be worse for her She dared not do otherwise than he willed, and when he had eaten he went out, foul-mouthed

Now it had gone so with the weather that it was heavy all round, and snow-flakes were falling, and it was blowing loud and grew much worse as the day went on The shepherd

was heard early in the day, but less later. Then wind began to drive the snow, and towards evening it became a tempest. Then men came to the service, and so it went on to nightfall. Glam did not come home. Then there was talk whether search ought not to be made for him, but because there was a tempest and it was pitch dark, no search was attempted. That Yule night he did not come home, and so men waited till after the service [next, i.e. Christmas, morning]. But when it was full day, men went to search, and found the sheep scattered in the snow-drifts<sup>1</sup>, battered by the tempest, or strayed up into the mountains. Then they came on a great space beaten down, high up in the valley. It looked to them as if there had been somewhat violent wrestling there, because the stones had been torn up for a distance around, and the earth likewise. They looked closely and saw where Glam lay a little distance away. He was dead, and blue like Hel and swollen like an ox. They had great loathing of him, and their souls shuddered at him. Nevertheless they strove to bring him to the church, but they could get him no further than the edge of a ravine a little below, and they went home leaving matters so, and told the yeoman what had happened. He asked what appeared to have been the death of Glam. They said that, from the trodden spot, up to a place beneath the rocks high in the valley, they had tracked marks as big as if a cask-bottom had been stamped down, and great drops of blood with them. So men concluded from this, that the evil thing which had been there before must have killed Glam, but Glam must have done it damage which had been enough, in that nought has ever happened since from that evil thing.

The second day of Yule it was again essayed to bring Glam to the church.

Beasts of draught were harnessed, but they could not move him where it was level ground and not down hill, so they departed, leaving matters so.

The third day the priest went with them, and they searched p 150 all day, but Glam could not be found. The priest would go no

<sup>1</sup> MS A has *fon*<sup>m</sup> or *fen*<sup>m</sup>, it is difficult to tell which. Magnússon reads *fenum*, "morasses."

more, but Glam was found when the priest was not in the company. Then they gave up trying to carry him to the church, and buried him where he was, under a cairn

A little later men became aware that Glam was not lying quiet. Great harm came to men from this, so that many fell into a swoon when they saw him, and some could not keep their wits. Just after Yule, men thought they saw him at home at the farm. They were exceedingly afraid, and many fled away. Thereupon Glam took to riding the house-roofs at nights, so that he nearly broke them in. He walked almost night and day. Men hardly dared to go up into the dale, even though they had business enough. Men in that country-side thought great harm of this.

In the spring Thorhall got farm-hands together and set up house on his land. Then the apparition began to grow less frequent whilst the sun's course was at its height, and so it went on till midsummer. That summer a ship came out to Hunawater. On it was a man called Thorgaut. He was an outlander by race, big and powerful, he had the strength of two men. He was in no man's service, and alone, and he wished to take up some work, since he had no money. Thorhall rode to the ship, and met Thorgaut. He asked him if he would work for him. Thorgaut said that might well be, and that he would make no difficulties.

"But thou must be prepared," said Thorhall, "that it is no place for weaklings, by reason of the hauntings which have been going on for a while, for I will not let thee into a trap."

Thorgaut answered, "It does not seem to me that I am undone, even though I were to see some little ghosts. It must be no easy matter for others if I am frightened, and I will not give up my place for that."

So now they agreed well, and Thorgaut was to watch the sheep when winter came.

Now the summer passed on. Thorgaut took charge of the sheep at the winter-nights. He was well-pleasing to all. Glam ever came home and rode on the roofs. Thorgaut thought it sporting, and said that the thrall would have to come nearer

in order to scare him. But Thorhall bade him keep quiet: "It is best that ye should not try your strength together." Thorgaut said, "Verily, your courage is shaken out of you: I shall not drop down with fear between day and night over such talk "

Now things went on through the winter up to Yule-tide. On Yule evening the shepherd went out to his sheep. Then p 151 the yeoman's wife said, "It is to be hoped that now things will not go in the old way "

He answered, "Be not afraid of that, mistress, something worth telling will have happened if I do not come back "

Then he went to his sheep. The weather was cold, and it snowed much. Thorgaut was wont to come home when it was twilight, but now he did not come at that time. Men came to the service, as was the custom. It seemed to people that things were going as they had before. The yeoman wished to have search made for the shepherd, but the church-goers excused themselves, and said they would not risk themselves out in the hands of the trolls by night. And the yeoman did not dare to go, so the search came to nothing.

On Yule-day, when men had eaten, they went and searched for the shepherd. They went first to Glam's cairn, because men thought that the shepherd's disappearance must have been through his bringing-about. But when they came near the cairn they saw great things, for there they found the shepherd with his neck broken and not a bone in him whole. Then they carried him to the church, and no harm happened to any man from Thorgaut afterwards, but Glam began to increase in strength anew. He did so much that all men fled away from Thorhall's Farm, except only the yeoman and his wife.

Now the same cattle-herd had been there a long time. Thorhall would not let him go, because of his good-will and good service. He was far gone in age and was very unwilling to leave. He saw that everything went to waste which the yeoman had, if no one looked after it. And once after mid-winter it happened one morning that the yeoman's wife went to the byre to milk the cows as usual. It was quite light, because no one dared to go out before, except the cattle-herd. He went

out as soon as it dawned. She heard great cracking in the byre and a hideous bellowing. She ran back, crying out, and said she did not know what devilry was going on in the byre.

The yeoman went out, and came to the cattle, and they were goring each other. It seemed to him no good to stay there, and he went further into the hay-barn. He saw where the cattle-herd lay, and he had his head in one stall and his feet in the next. He lay on his back. The yeoman went to him and felt him. He soon found that he was dead, and his back-bone broken in two, it had been broken over the partition slab.

Now it seemed no longer bearable to Thorhall, and he left his farm with all that he could carry away, but all the live-stock left behind Glam killed. After that he went through all the p 152 dale and laid waste all the farms up from Tongue. Thorhall spent what was left of the winter with his friends. No man could go up into the dale with horse or hound, because it was slain forthwith. But when spring came, and the course of the sun was highest, the apparitions abated somewhat. Now Thorhall wished to go back to his land. It was not easy for him to get servants, but still he set up house at Thorhall's Farm.

All went the same way as before. When autumn came on the hauntings began to increase. The yeoman's daughter was most attacked, and it fared so that she died. Many counsels were taken, but nothing was done. Things seemed to men to be looking as if all Water-dale must be laid waste, unless some remedies could be found.

Now the story must be taken up about Grettir, how he sat at home at Bjarg that autumn, after he had parted from Baithi-of-the-Slayings at Thorey's Peak. And when it had almost come to the winter-nights, Grettir rode from home, north over the neck to Willow-dale, and was a guest at Authun's Farm. He was fully reconciled to Authun, and gave him a good axe, and they spake of their wish for friendship one with the other (Authun dwelt long at Authun's Farm, and much goodly offspring had he. Egil was his son, who wedded Ulfheith, daughter of Eyjolf Guthmundson, and their son was Eyjolf, who was slain at the All-Thing. He was father of Orm, chaplain to

Bishop Thorlak ) Grettir rode north to Water-dale and came on a visit to Tongue. At that time Jokul Barthson lived there, Grettir's uncle. Jokul was a man great and strong and very proud. He was a seafaring man, and very over-bearing, yet of great account. He received Grettir well, and Grettir was there three nights.

There was so much said about the apparitions of Glam that nothing was spoken of by men equally with that. Grettir inquired exactly about the events which had happened. Jokul said that nothing more had been spoken than had verily occurred. "But art thou anxious, kinsman, to go there?"

Grettir said that that was the truth. Jokul begged him not to do so, "For that is a great risk of thy luck, and thy kinsmen have much at stake where thou art," said he, "for none of the young men seems to us to be equal to thee, but ill will come of ill where Glam is, and it is much better to have to do with mortal men than with evil creatures like that."

Grettir said he was minded to go to Thorhall's Farm and p 153 see how things had fared there. Jokul said, "I see now that it is of no avail to stop thee, but true it is what men say, that good-luck is one thing, and goodness another."

"Woe is before one man's door when it is come into another's house. Think how it may fare with thee thyself before the end," said Grettir.

Jokul answered, "It may be that both of us can see somewhat into the future, but neither can do aught in the matter."

After that they parted, and neither was pleased with the other's foreboding.

Grettir rode to Thorhall's Farm, and the yeoman greeted him well. He asked whither Grettir meant to go, but Grettir said he would stay there over the night if the yeoman would have it so. Thorhall said he owed him thanks for being there, "But few men find it a profit to stay here for any time. Thou must have heard what the dealings are here, and I would fain that thou shouldst have no troubles on my account, but though thou shouldst come whole away, I know for certain that thou

wilt lose thy steed, for no one who comes here keeps his horse whole”

Grettir said there were plenty of horses, whatever should become of this one

Thorhall was glad that Grettir would stay there, and welcomed him exceedingly

Grettir's horse was strongly locked in an out-house. They went to sleep, and so the night passed without Glam coming home. Then Thorhall said, “Things have taken a good turn against thy coming, for every night Glam has been wont to ride the roofs or break up the doors, even as thou canst see”

Grettir said, “Then must one of two things happen. Either he will not long hold himself in, or the wonted haunting will cease for more than one night. I will stay here another night and see how it goes”

Then they went to Grettir's horse, and he had not been attacked. Then everything seemed to the yeoman to be going one way. Now Grettir stayed for another night, and the thrall did not come home. Then things seemed to the yeoman to be taking a very hopeful turn. He went to look after Grettir's horse. When he came there, the stable was broken into, and the horse dragged out to the door, and every bone in him broken asunder.

Thorhall told Grettir what had happened, and bade him save his own life—“For thy death is sure if thou waitest for Glam”

Grettir answered, “The least I must have in exchange for my horse is to see the thrall”

The yeoman said that there was no good in seeing him. “For he is unlike any shape of man, but every hour that thou p 154 wilt stay here seems good to me”

Now the day went on, and when bed-time came Grettir would not put off his clothes, but lay down in the seat over against the yeoman's sleeping-chamber. He had a shaggy cloak over him, and wrapped one corner of it down under his feet, and twisted the other under his head and looked out through the head-opening. There was a great and strong partition beam in front of the seat, and he put his feet against it. The door-



frame was all broken away from the outer door, but now boards, fastened together carelessly anyhow, had been tied in front. The panelling which had been in front was all broken away from the hall, both above and below the cross-beam; the beds were all torn out of their places, and everything was very wretched<sup>1</sup>

A light burned in the hall during the night and when a third part of the night was past, Grettir heard a great noise outside. Some creature had mounted upon the buildings and was riding upon the hall and beating it with its heels, so that it cracked in every rafter. This went on a long time. Then the creature came down from the buildings and went to the door. When the door was opened Grettir saw that the thrall had stretched in his head, and it seemed to him monstrously great and wonderfully huge. Glam went slowly and stretched himself up when he came inside the door. He towered up to the roof. He turned and laid his arm upon the cross-beam and glared in upon the hall. The yeoman did not let himself be heard, because the noise he heard outside seemed to him enough. Grettir lay quiet and did not move.

Glam saw that a heap lay upon the seat, and he stalked in up the hall and gripped the cloak wondrous fast. Grettir pressed his feet against the post and gave not at all. Glam pulled a second time much more violently, and the cloak did not move. A third time he gripped with both hands so mightily that he pulled Grettir up from the seat, and now the cloak was torn asunder between them.

Glam gazed at the portion which he held, and wondered much who could have pulled so hard against him, and at that moment Grettir leapt under his arms and grasped him round

<sup>1</sup> Immediately inside the door of the Icelandic dwelling was the *anddyri* or vestibule. For want of a better word, I translate *anddyri* by "porch" but it is a porch inside the building. Opening out of this 'porch' were a number of rooms. Chief among which were the *skáli* or "hall," and the *stufa* or "sitting room," the latter reached by a passage (*gang*). These were separated from the "porch" by panelling. In the struggle with Glam, Grettir is lying in the hall (*skáli*), but the panelling has all been broken away from the great cross beam to which it was fixed. Grettir consequently sees Glam enter the outer door, Glam turns to the *skali*, and glares down it, leaning over the cross-beam, then enters the hall, and the struggle begins. See Guðmundsson (V), *Privatbolgen på Island i Sagatiden*, 1889.

the middle, and bent his back as mightily as he could, reckoning that Glam would sink to his knees at his attack. But the thrall laid such a grip on Grettir's arm that he recoiled at the might of it. Then Grettir gave way from one seat to another. The beams<sup>1</sup> started, and all that came in their way was broken. Glam wished to get out, but Grettir set his feet against any p 155 support he could find; nevertheless Glam dragged him forward out of the hall. And there they had a sore wrestling, in that the thrall meant to drag him right out of the building, but ill as it was to have to do with Glam inside, Grettir saw that it would be yet worse without, and so he struggled with all his might against going out. Glam put forth all his strength, and dragged Grettir towards himself when they came to the porch. And when Grettir saw that he could not resist, then all at once he flung himself against the breast of the thrall, as powerfully as he could, and pressed forward with both his feet against a stone which stood fast in the earth at the entrance. The thrall was not ready for this, he had been pulling to drag Grettir towards himself, and thereupon he stumbled on his back out of doors, so that his shoulders smote against the cross-piece of the door, and the roof clave asunder, both wood and frozen thatch. So Glam fell backwards out of the house and Grettir on top of him. There was bright moonshine and broken clouds without. At times they drifted in front of the moon and at times away. Now at the moment when Glam fell, the clouds cleared from before the moon, and Glam rolled up his eyes, and Grettir himself has said that that was the one sight he had seen which struck fear into him. Then such a sinking came over Grettir, from his weariness and from that sight of Glam rolling his eyes, that he had no strength to draw his knife and lay almost between life and death.

<sup>1</sup> The partition beams (*set stokkar*) stood between the middle of the *skáli* or hall and the planked dais which ran down each side. The strength of the combatants is such that the *stokkar* give way. Grettir gets no footing to withstand Glam till they reach the outer door. Here there is a stone set in the ground, which apparently gives a better footing for a push than for a pull. So Grettir changes his tactics, gets a purchase on the stone, and at the same time pushes against Glam's breast, and so dashes Glam's head and shoulders against the lintel of the outer door.

But in this was there more power for evil in Glam than in most other apparitions, in that he spake thus "Much eagerness hast thou shown, Grettir," said he, "to meet with me But no wonder will it seem if thou hast no good luck from me And this can I tell thee, that thou hast now achieved one half of the power and might which was fated for thee if thou hadst not met with me Now no power have I to take that might from thee to which thou hast attained But in this may I have my way, that thou shalt never become stronger than now thou art, and yet art thou strong enough, as many a one shall find to his cost Famous hast thou been till now for thy deeds, but from now on shall exiles and manslaughters fall to thy lot, and almost all of thy labours shall turn to ill-luck and unhappiness Thou shalt be outlawed and doomed ever to dwell alone, away from men, and then lay I this fate on thee, that these eyes of mine be ever before thy sight, and it shall seem grievous unto thee to be alone, and that shall drag thee to thy death "

And when the thrall had said this, the swoon which had p 156 fallen upon Grettir passed from him Then he drew his sword and smote off Glam's head, and placed it by his thigh

Then the yeoman came out he had clad himself whilst Glam was uttering his curse, but he dare in no wise come near before Glam had fallen Thorhall praised God for it, and thanked Grettir well for having vanquished the unclean spirit

Then they set to work and burned Glam to cold cinders After, they put the ashes in a skin-bag and buried them as far as possible from the ways of man or beast After that they went home, and by that time it was well on to day Grettir lay down, for he was very stiff Thorhall sent people to the next farm for men, and showed to them what had happened To all those who heard of it, it seemed a work of great account, and that was then spoken by all, that no man in all the land was equal to Grettir Asmundarson for might and valour and all prowess Thorhall sent Grettir from his house with honour, and gave him a good horse and fit clothing, for all the clothes which he had worn before were torn asunder They parted great friends Grettir rode thence to Ridge in Water-dale, and Thorvald greeted him well, and asked closely as to his meeting

with Glam Grettir told him of their dealings, and said that never had he had such a trial of strength, so long a struggle had theirs been together

Thorvald bade him keep quiet, "and then all will be well, otherwise there are bound to be troubles for thee"

Grettir said that his temper had not bettered, and that he was now more unruly than before, and all offences seemed worse to him And in that he found a great difference, that he had become so afraid of the dark that he did not dare to go anywhere alone after night had fallen All kinds of horrors appeared to him then. And that has since passed into a proverb, that Glam gives eyes, or gives "glam-sight" to those to whom things seem quite other than they are Grettir rode home to Bjarg when he had done his errand, and remained at home during the winter.

(b) *Sandhaugar episode* (p. 156 above)

There was a priest called Stein who lived at Eyjardalsá (Isledale River) in Barthardal He was a good husbandman and rich in cattle His son was Kjartan, a doughty man and well grown. There was a man called Thorstein the White who lived at Sandhaugar (Sandheaps), south of Isledale river, his p. 157 wife was called Steinvor, and she was young and merry They had children, who were young then

People thought the place was much haunted by reason of the visitation of trolls It happened, two winters before Grettir came North into those districts, that the good-wife Steinvor at Sandhaugar went to a Christmas service, according to her custom, at Isledale river, but her husband remained at home. In the evening men went to bed, and during the night they heard a great rummage in the hall, and by the good-man's bed No one dared to get up to look to it, because there were very few men about The good-wife came home in the morning, but her husband had vanished, and no one knew what had become of him

The next year passed away But the winter after, the good-wife wished again to go to the church-service, and she bade her

manservant remain at home. He was unwilling, but said she must have her own way. All went in the same manner as before, and the servant vanished. People thought that strange. They saw some splashes of blood on the outer door, and men thought that evil beings must have taken away both the good-man and the servant.

The news of this spread wide throughout the country. Grettir heard of it, and because it was his fortune to get rid of hauntings and spirit-walkings, he took his way to Barthardal, and came to Sandhaugar on Yule eve. He disguised himself, and said his name was Guest. The good-wife saw that he was great of stature, and the farm-folk were much afraid of him. He asked for quarters for the night. The good-wife said that he could have meat forthwith, but "You must look after your own safety."

He said it should be so. "I will be at home," said he, "and you can go to the service if you will."

She answered, "You are a brave man, it seems to me, if you dare to remain at home."

"I do not care to have things all one way<sup>2</sup>," said he.

"It seems ill to me to be at home," said she, "but I cannot get over the river."

"I will see you over," said Guest.

Then she got ready to go to the service, and her small daughter with her. It was thawing, the river was in flood, and there were ice floes in it. Then the good-wife said, "It is impossible for man or horse to get across the river."

"There must be fords in it," said Guest, "do not be afraid."

p 158 "Do you carry the child first," said the good-wife, "she is the lighter."

"I do not care to make two journeys of it," said Guest, "and I will carry thee on my arm."

She crossed herself and said, "That is an impossible way, what will you do with the child?"

<sup>1</sup> So MS 551 a. Magnússon reads *dvaldist þar* "he stayed there."

<sup>2</sup> Meaning that an attack by the evil beings would at least break the monotony.

"I will see a way for that," said he; and then he took them both up, and set the child on her mother's knee and so bore them both on his left arm. But he had his right hand free, and thus he waded out into the ford.

They did not dare to cry out, so much afraid were they. The river washed at once up against his breast, then it tossed a great icefloe against him, but he put out the hand that was free and pushed it from him. Then it grew so deep that the river dashed over his shoulder, but he waded stoutly on, until he came to the bank on the other side, and threw Steinvor and her daughter on the land.

Then he turned back, and it was half dark when he came to Sandhaugar and called for meat, and when he had eaten, he bade the farm folk go to the far side of the room. Then he took boards and loose timber which he dragged across the room, and made a great barrier so that none of the farm folk could come over it. No one dared to say anything against him or to murmur in any wise. The entrance was in the side wall of the chamber by the gable-end, and there was a dais there. Guest lay down there, but did not take off his clothes: a light was burning in the room over against the door. Guest lay there far into the night.

The good-wife came to Isledale river to the service, and men wondered how she had crossed the river. She said she did not know whether it was a man or a troll who had carried her over. The priest said, "It must surely be a man, although there are few like him. And let us say nothing about it," said he, "it may be that he is destined to work a remedy for your evils." The good-wife remained there through the night.

Now it is to be told concerning Grettir that when it drew towards midnight he heard great noises outside. Thereupon there came into the room a great giantess. She had in one hand a trough and in the other a short-sword, rather a big one. She looked round when she came in, and saw where Guest lay, and sprang at him; but he sprang up against her, and they struggled fiercely and wrestled for a long time in the room. She was the

stronger, but he gave way warily; and they broke all that was before them, as well as the panelling of the room. She dragged him forward through the door and so<sup>1</sup> into the porch, and he p 159 struggled hard against her. She wished to drag him out of the house, but that did not happen until they had broken all the fittings of the outer doorway and forced them out on their shoulders. Then she dragged him slowly down towards the river and right along to the gorge

By that time Guest was exceedingly weary, but yet, one or other it had to be, either he had to gather his strength together, or else she would have hurled him down into the gorge. All night they struggled. He thought that he had never grappled with such a devil in the matter of strength. She had got such a grip upon him that he could do nothing with either hand, except to hold the witch by the middle, but when they came to the gorge of the river he swung the giantess round, and there-upon got his right hand free. Then quickly he gripped his knife that he wore in his girdle and drew it, and smote the shoulder of the giantess so that he cut off her right arm. So he got free, but she fell into the gorge, and so into the rapids below

Guest was then both stiff and tired, and lay long on the rocks, then he went home when it began to grow light, and lay down in bed. He was all swollen black and blue

And when the good-wife came from the service, it seemed to her that things had been somewhat disarranged in her house. Then she went to Guest and asked him what had happened, that all was broken and destroyed<sup>2</sup>. He told her all that had taken place. She thought it very wonderful, and asked who he was. He told her the truth, and asked her to send for the priest, and said he wished to meet him, and so it was done

Then when Stein the priest came to Sandhaugar, he knew soon that it was Grettir Asmundarson who had come there, and who had called himself Guest

The priest asked Grettir what he thought must have become of those men who had vanished. Grettir said he thought they

<sup>1</sup> A passage (*göng*) had to be traversed between the door of the room (*stofa*) and the porch (*anddyri*)

<sup>2</sup> *miss balk*. Boer reads *bolat* "hewn down"

must have vanished into the gorge. The priest said that he could not believe Grettir's saying, if no signs of it were to be seen. Grettir said that they would know more accurately about it later. Then the priest went home. Grettir lay many days in bed. The good-wife looked after him well, and so the Christmas-time passed.

Grettir's account was that the giantess fell into the gulf when she got her wound, but the men of Barthardal say that day came upon her whilst they wrestled, and that she burst when he smote her hand off, and that she stands there on the cliff yet, a rock in the likeness of a woman<sup>1</sup>.

The dwellers in the dale kept Grettir in hiding there. But after Christmas time, one day that winter, Grettir went to Isledale river. And when Grettir and the priest met, Grettir said, "I see, priest, that you place little belief in my words p 160. Now will I that you go with me to the river and see what the likelihood seems to you to be."

The priest did so. But when they came to the waterfall they saw that the sides of the gorge hung over<sup>2</sup> it was a sheer cliff so great that one could in nowise come up, and it was nearly ten fathoms<sup>3</sup> from the top to the water below. They had a rope with them. Then the priest said, "It seems to me quite impossible for thee to get down."

Grettir said, "Assuredly it is possible, but best for those who are men of valour. I will examine what is in the waterfall, and thou shalt watch the rope."

<sup>1</sup> A night-troll, if caught by the sunrise, was supposed to turn into stone.

<sup>2</sup> *Skúta* may be acc. of the noun *skúti*, "overhanging precipice, cave", or it may be the verb, "hang over." Grettir and his companion see that the sides of the ravine are precipitous (*skúta upp*) and so clean-cut (*metill-berg metill*, "a chisel") that they give no hold to the climber. Hence the need for the rope. The translators all take *skúta* as acc. of *skúti*, which is quite possible but they are surely wrong when they proceed to identify the *skúti* with the *hellir* behind the waterfall. For this cave behind the waterfall is introduced in the *saga* as something which Grettir discovers after he has dived beneath the fall, the fall in front naturally hiding it till then.

The verb *skúta* occurs elsewhere in *Grettis saga*, of the glaciers overhanging a valley. Boer's attempt to reconstruct the scene appears to me wrong of Rasmisch in *A f d A* xxviii, 217.

<sup>3</sup> The old editions read *fimm tigr fadma* "fifty fathoms" but according to Boer's collation the best ms (A) reads X, whilst four of the five others collated give XV (*fimlan*). The editors seem dissatisfied with this yet sixty to ninety feet seems a good enough height for a dive.



The priest said it should be as he wished, drove a peg into the cliff, piled stones against it, and sat by it<sup>1</sup>.

Now it must be told concerning Grettir that he knotted a stone into the rope, and so let it down to the water.

"What way," said the priest, "do you mean to go?"

"I will not be bound," said Grettir, "when I go into the water, so much my mind forebodes me"

After that he got ready for his exploit, and had little on, he girded himself with his short sword, and had no other weapon.

Then he plunged from the cliff down into the waterfall. The priest saw the soles of his feet, and knew no more what had become of him. Grettir dived under the waterfall, and that was difficult because there was a great eddy, and he had to dive right to the bottom before he could come up behind the waterfall. There was a jutting rock and he climbed upon it. There was a great cave behind the waterfall, and the river fell in front of it from the precipice. He went into the cave, and there was a big fire burning. Grettir saw that there sat a giant of frightful size. He was terrible to look upon. but when Grettir came to him, the giant leapt up and seized a pike, and hewed at the new-comer for with the pike he could both cut and stab. It had a handle of wood men at that time called a weapon made in such a way a *heptisax*. Grettir smote against it with his short sword, and struck the handle so that he cut it asunder. Then the giant tried to reach back for a sword which hung behind him in the cave. Thereupon Grettir smote him in the breast, and struck off almost all the lower part of his chest and his belly, so that the entrails gushed out of him down into the river, and were swept along the current.

And as the priest sat by the rope he saw some lumps, clotted  
 p 181 with blood, carried down stream. Then he became unsteady, and thought that now he knew that Grettir must be dead and he ran from keeping the rope and went home. It was then evening, and the priest said for certain that Grettir was dead, and added that it was a great loss of such a man.

Now the tale must be told concerning Grettir. He let little space go between his blows till the giant was dead. Then he

<sup>1</sup> ok sat þar hjá, not in MS A, nor in Boer's edition

went further into the cave; he kindled a light and examined it. It is not said how much wealth he took in the cave, but men think that there was something. He stayed there far into the night. He found there the bones of two men, and put them into a bag. Then he left the cave and swam to the rope and shook it, for he thought that the priest must be there. But when he knew that the priest had gone home, then he had to draw himself up, hand over hand, and so he came up on to the cliff.

Then he went home to Isledale river, and came to the church porch, with the bag that the bones were in, and with a rune-staff, on which these verses were exceedingly well cut:

There into gloomy gulf I passed,  
O'er which from the rock's throat is cast  
The swirling rush of waters wan,  
To meet the sword-player feared of man  
By giant's hall the strong stream pressed  
Cold hands against the singer's breast,  
Huge weight upon him there did hurl  
The swallower of the phanging whirl<sup>1</sup>

And this rhyme too

The dreadful dweller of the cave  
Great strokes and many 'gainst me drave;  
Full hard he had to strive for it,  
But toiling long he wan no whit,  
For from its mighty shaft of tree  
The heft-sax smote I speedily,  
And dulled the flashing war-flame fair  
In the black breast that met me there

These verses told also that Grettir had taken these bones out p 102 of the cave. But when the priest came to the church in the morning he found the staff, and what was with it, and read the runes, but Grettir had gone home to Sandhaugar

But when the priest met Grettir he asked him closely as to what had happened and Grettir told him all the story of his journey And he added that the priest had not watched the rope faithfully The priest said that that was true enough

Men thought for certain that these monsters must have caused the loss of men there in the dale, and there was never any loss from *flauntings* or spirit-walkings there afterwards.

<sup>1</sup> The two poems are given according to the version of William Morris

Grettir was thought to have caused a great purging of the land.  
The priest buried these bones in the churchyard.

D. EXTRACTS FROM *BJARKA RÍMUR*

(*Hrólfs saga Kraka og Bjarkarímur* udgivne ved F. Jónsson,  
København, 1904)

58 Flestir qmuðu Hetta heldr,  
hann var ekki í máli sneldr,  
einn dag fóru þeir út af höll,  
svó ekki vissi hriðin qll.

59 Hjalti talar er felmtinn fær,  
“fögrum við ekki skógi nær,  
hér er sú ylgr sem etr upp menn,  
qkr drepr hún báða senn”

60 Ylgrin hljóp úr einum runn,  
ógurlig með gapanda munn,  
hørmuhgt varð Hjalta viðr,  
á honum skalf bæði leggr og liðr.

61. Ótæpt Bjarki að henni gengr,  
ekki dvelr hann við það lengr,  
høggur svó að í hamn stóð,  
hljóp úr henni ferligt blóð

62 “Kjóstu Hjalti um kosti tvó,”  
kappinn Bøðvar talaði svó,  
“drekki nú blóð eða drep eg þig hér,  
dugrinn líz mér engi í þér”

63 Ansar Hjalti af ærnum móð,  
“ekki þori eg að drekka blóð,  
nýtir flest ef nauðigr skal,  
nú er ekki á betra val”

64. Hjalti gýgrir sem Bøðvar biðr,  
að blóði frá eg hann lagðist niðr,  
drekkiur síðan drykki þrjá,  
duga mun honum við einn að rjá.”

4. Hann hefr fengið hjartað snjalt  
af hǫrðum móði,  
fekk hann huginn og aðið alt  
af ylgjar blóði

5. Í grindur vandist grábjörn einn  
í garðinn Hleiðar,  
var sá margur vargrinn beinn  
og víða sveiðar

6. Bjarka er kent, að hjarðarhunda  
hafi hann drepna,  
ekki er hónum allvel hent  
við ýta kepna.

7. Hrólfur býst og hirð hans ǫll  
að húna stýri,  
"Sá skal mestr í minni hǫll  
er mætir dýri "

8. Beljandi hljóp björninn framm  
úr bóli krukku,  
veifar sínum vónða hramm,  
svó virðar hrukku.

9. Hjalti sér og horfir þá á,  
er hafin er róma,  
hafði hann ekki í höndum þá  
nema hnefana tóma

10. Hrólfur fleygði að Hjalta þá  
þeim hildar vendi,  
kappinn móti krummu brá  
og klótið hendi.

11. Lagði hann síðan björninn brátt  
við bóginn hægra,  
bessi fell í brúðar átt  
og bar sig lægra

12. Vann hann það til frægða fyst  
og fleira síðar,  
hans var lundin löngum byst  
í leiki gríðar.

13. Hér með fékk hann Hjalta nafn  
hins hjartaprúða,  
Bjarki var eigi betri en jafn  
við býti skrúða

v, 4-13.

23. Aðals var glaðr afreksmaðr,  
austur þangað kómu,  
fyrðar þeir með fránan geir  
flengja þegar til rómu.

24. Ýtar býta engum frið,  
unnu vel til mála,  
þar fell Áli og alt hans lið  
ungr í leiki stála.

25. Hestrinn beztur Hrafn er kendr,  
háfa þeir tekið af Ála,  
Hildisvín er hjálmrinn vendr,  
hann kaus Bjarki í mála

26. Qðling bað þá eigi drafl  
eiga um nokkur skipti,  
það mun kosta kóngligt afl,  
hann kappann gripunum svipti.

27. Ekki þótti Bøðvar betr,  
í burtu fóru þeir Hjalti,  
létust áðr en liðinn er vetr  
leita að Fróða malti

28. Síðan ríða seggir heim  
og sögðu kóngi þetta,  
hann kveðst mundu handa þeim  
heimta slíkt af létta

viii, 23-28.

TRANSLATION OF EXTRACTS FROM *BJARKA RÍMUR*

58 Most [of Rolf's retainers] much tormented Hott [Hjalti], he was not cunning in speech. One day Hjalti and Bothvar went out of the hall, in such wise that none of the retainers knew thereof.

59. Hjalti spake in great terror, "Let us not go near the wood; here is the she-wolf who eats up men, she will kill us both together."

60. The she-wolf leapt from a thicket, dread, with gaping jaws. A great terror was it to Hjalti, and he trembled in every limb.

61. Without delay or hesitation went Bjarki towards her, and hewed at her so that the axe went deep, a monstrous stream of blood gushed from her

62. "Choose now, Hjalti, of two things"—so spake Bothvar the champion—"Drink now the blood, or I slay thee here, it seems unto me that there is no valour in thee"

63. Hjalti replied stoutly enough, "I cannot bring myself to drink blood, but if I needs must, it avails most [to submit], and now is there no better choice"

64. Hjalti did as Bothvar bade: he stooped down to the blood, then drank he three sups, that will suffice him to wrestle with one man

IV, 58-64

4. He [Hjalti] has gained good courage and keen spirit, he got strength and all valour from the she-wolf's blood

5. A grey bear visited the folds at Hleithargarth, many such a ravager was there far and wide throughout the country

6. The blame was laid upon Bjarki, because he had slain the herdsmen's dogs, it was not so suited for him to have to strive with men<sup>1</sup>.

7. Rolf and all his household prepared to hunt the bear, "He who faces the beast shall be greatest in my hall"

8. Roaring did the bear leap forth from out its den, swinging its evil claws, so that men shrank back

9. Hjalti saw, he turned and gazed where the battle began, nought had he then in his hands—his empty fists alone

<sup>1</sup> On his first arrival at Leire, Bjarki had been attacked by, and had slain, the watch-dogs (*Rímur*, IV, 41) this naturally brings him now into disfavour, and he has to dispute with men

10. Rolf tossed then to Hjalti his wand of war [his sword]; the warrior put forth his hand towards it, and grasped the pommel.

11. Quickly then he smote the bear in the right shoulder; Bruin fell to the earth, and bore himself in more lowly wise

12. That was the beginning of his exploits, many followed later; his spirit was ever excellent amid the play of battle.

13. Herefrom he got the name of Hjalti the stout-hearted: Bjarki was no more than his equal.

v, 4-13.

23. Joyful was the valiant Athils when they [Bjarki and Rolf's champions] came east to that place [Lake Wener], troops with flashing spears rode quickly forthwith to the battle

24 No truce gave they to their foes well they earned their pay, there fell Ali and all his host, young in the game of swords.

25 The best of horses, Hrafn by name, they took from Ali, Bjarki chose for his reward the helm Hildisvin.

26. The prince [Athils] bade them have no talk about the business, he deprived the champions<sup>1</sup> of their treasures—that will be a test of his power

27. Ill-pleased was Bothvar he and Hjalti departed, they declared that before the winter was gone they would seek for the treasure [the malt of Frothi]

28 Then they rode home and told it to the king [Rolf], he said it was their business to claim their due outright

viii, 23-28.

#### E. EXTRACT FROM ÞÁTTIR ORMS STÓRÓLFSSONAR

(*Fornmanna Sögur*, Copenhagen, 1827, III. 204 etc.,  
*Flateyrbók*, Christiania, 1859-68, I. 527 etc.)

7. Litlu síðarr enn þeir Ormr ok Ásbjörn höfðu skilið, fýstist Ásbjörn norðr í Sauðeyjar, fór hann við 4 menn ok 20 á skipi, heldr norðr fyrir Mæri, ok leggð seinþ dags at Sauðey

<sup>1</sup> Reading *kappana*

hinna ytri, gánga á land ok reisa tjald, eru þar um nóttina, ok verða við ekki varir, um morgininn árla rís Ásbjörn upp, klæðir sik, ok tekr vöpn sín, ok gengr uppá land, en biðr menn sína bíta sín; en er nokkut svá var liðit frá því, er Ásbjörn hafði í brott gengit, verða þeir við þat varir, at ketta ógrlig var komin í tjaldsdyrmar, hon var kolsvört at lit ok heldr grimmlig, þvíat eldr þótti brenna or nösnum hennar ok munni, eigi var hon ok vel eyg, þeim brá mjök við þessa sýn, ok urðu óttafullir. Ketta hleypr þá innar at þeim, ok grípr hverá at öðrum, ok svá er sagt at suma gleypu hon, en suma rífi hon til dauðs með klóm ok tönnum, 20 menn drap hon þar á lítilli stundu, en 3 kvómust út ok undan ok á skip, ok héldu þegar undan landi; en Ásbjörn gengr þar til, er hann kemr at hellinum Brúsa, ok snarar þegar inn í, honum varð nokkut dimt fyrir augum, en skuggamikil var í hellinum; hann verðr eigi fyrr var við, enn hann er þrífinn álopt, ok færðr niðr svá hart, at Ásbirni þótti furða í, verðr hann þess þá varr, at þar er kominn Brúsi jötun, ok sýndist heldr mikiligr. Brúsi mælti þá þó lagðr þú mikit kapp á at sækja hingat, skaltu nú ok eyrindi hafa, þvíat þú skalt hér lífit láta með svá miklum harmkvælum, at þat skal aðra letja at sækja mik heim með ófriði, fletti hann þá Ásbjörn klæðum, þvíat svá var þeirra mikill afía munr, at jötunninn varð einn at ráða þeirra í milli, bálk mikinn sá Ásbjörn standa um þveran hellinn ok stórt gat á miðjum bálkinum, járnúla stór stóð nokkut svá fyrir framan bálkin. Nú skal prófa þat, segir Brúsi, hvárt þú ert nokkut harðari enn aðrir menn. Lítat mun þat at reyna, segir Ásbjörn ...

Síðan lét Ásbjörn líf sitt með mikilli hreysti ok drengskap.

8. Þat er at segja at þeir þrír menn, er undan kómust, sóttu knálíga rór, ok létu eigi fyrr enn þeir kómu at landi, sögðu þau tíðindi er gerzt höfðu í þeirra fgrum, kvóðust ætla Ásbjörn dauðan, en kunnu ekki frá at segja, hversu at hefði borizt um hans líflát, kvómu þeir sér í skip með kaupmönnum, ok fluttust svá suðr til Danmerkr, spurðust nú þessi tíðindi víða, ok þóttu mikil. Þá var orðit höfðingja skipti í Noregi, Hakon jarl dauðr, en Ólafr Tryggvason í land kominn, ok bauð gillum rétta trú. Ormr Stórolfsson spurði út til Íslands um



farar ok líflát Ásbjarnar, er monnum þótti sem vera mundi; þótti honum þat allmikill skaði, ok undi eigi lengr á Íslandi, ok tók sér far í Reyðarfirði, ok fór þar utan; þeir kvómu norðarlíga við Noreg, ok sat hann um vetrinn í Þrándheimi, þá hafði Ólafr ráðit 3 vetr Noregi. Um vórit bjóst Ormr at fara til Sauðeya, þeir vóru því nærr margir á skipi, sem þeir Ásbjörn höfðu verit, þeir lögðu at minni Sauðey síð um kveldit, ok tjoðduðu á landi, ok lágu þar um náttuna ...

9. Nú gengr Ormr þar til er hann kemr at hellinum, sér hann nú bjargit þat stóra, ok leizt úmátuligt nokkurum manni þat í brott at færa; þó dregr hann á sik glófana Menglaðarnauta, tekr síðan á bjarginu ok færir þat burt or dyrunum, ok þikist Ormr þá aflraun mesta sýnt hafa, hann gekk þá inni bellinn, ok lagði málaþárn í dyrnar, en er hann var inn kominn, sá hann hvar kettañ hljóp með gapanda ginit. Ormr hafði boga ok orvamæli, lagði hann þá or á streing, ok skaut at kettunni þremr orum, en hon hendi allar með hvoptunum, ok beit í sundr, hefir hon sík þá at Ormi; ok rekr klærnar framan í fángit, svá at Ormr kíknað við, en klærnar gengu í gegnum klæðin svá at í beini stóð; hon ætlar þá at bíta í andlit Ormi, finnr hann þá at honum mun eigi veita, heitir þá á sjálfan guð ok hinn heilaga Petrum postula, at gánga til Róms, ef hann ynni kettuna ok Brúsa, son hennar; síðan fann Ormr at minkaðist afl kettunnar, tekr hann þá annarri hendi um kverkr henni, en annarri um hrygg, ok gengr hana á bak, ok brýtr ísundr í henni hrygginn, ok gengr svá af henni dauðri. Ormr sá þá, hvar bálrk stórr var um þveran hellinn, hann gengr þá innar at, en er hann kemr þar, sér hann at fleinn mikill kemr utar í gegnum bálkinn, hann var bæði dýgr ok lángr, Ormr grípr þá í móti fleininum, ok leggr af út; Brúsi kippir þá at sér fleininum ok var hann fastr svá at hvergi gekk; þat undraðist Brúsi, ok gægðist upp yfir bálkinn, en er Ormr sér þat, þrífr hann í skeggit á Brúsa báðum höndum, en Brúsi bregzt við í górum stað, sviptast þeir þá fast um bálkinn. Ormr hafði vafit skegginu um hönd sér, ok rykkir til svá fast, at hann rífr af Brúsa allan skeggstaðinn, hökuna, kjaptana báða, vængafyllurnar upp alt at eyrum, gekk hér með holdit mör at beini. Brúsi lét þá

síga brýnnar, ok grettist heldr greppiliga. Ormr stókkur þá innar yfir bálkin, grípast þeir þá til ok glíma lengi, mæddi Brúsa þá fast blóðrás, tekr hann þá heldr at gángast fyrir, gefr Ormr þá á, ok rekr Brúsa at bálkinum ok brýtr hann þar um á bak aptr. Snemma sagði mér þat hugr, sagði Brúsi, at ek munda af þér nokkut erfitt fá, þegar ek heyrða þín getit, enda er þat nú fram komit, muntu nú vinna skjótt um, ok hoggva hofuð af mér, en þat var satt, at mjök þínna ek Ásbjörn prúða, þá er ek rakta or honum alla þarmana, ok gaf hann sík ekki við, fyrrenn hann dó. Illa gerðir þú þat, segir Ormr, at þína hann svá mjök jafnröskvan mann, skaltu ok hafa þess nokkurar menjar. Hann brá þá saxi ok reist blóðgorn á baki honum, ok skar öll rifin frá hryggnum, ok dró þar út lúngun, lét Brúsi svá líf sitt með litlum dreingskap, síðan bar Ormr eld at, ok brendi upp til ösku bæði Brúsa ok kettuna, ok er hann hafði þetta starfat, fór hann burt or hellinum með kistur tvær fullar af gulli ok silfri, en þat sem meira var fé-mætt, gaf hann í vald Menglaðar, ok svá eyna, skildu þau með mikilli vináttu, kom Ormr til manna sinna í nefndan tíma, héldu síðan til meginlands Sat Ormr í þrándheimi vetr annan

TRANSLATION OF EXTRACT FROM *ÞÁTTIR ORMS STÓRÓLFSSONAR*

7.

A little after Orm and Asbiorn had parted, Asbiorn wished to go north to Sandeyar<sup>1</sup>, he went aboard with twenty-four men, went north past Mæri, and landed late in the day at the outermost of the Sandeyar<sup>1</sup>. They landed and pitched a tent, and spent the night there, and met with nothing

Early in the morning Asbiorn arose, clothed himself, took his arms, went inland, and bade his men wait for him

But when some time had passed from Asbiorn's having gone away, they were aware that a monstrous<sup>2</sup> cat had come to the

<sup>1</sup> The MSS have either *Sandeyar* or *Sauðeyar* (*Sauðeyar*). But that *Sandeyar* is the correct form is shown by the name *Sandæ*, which is given still to the island of Dollsey, where Orm's fight is localized (Panzer, 403)

<sup>2</sup> Literally "she-cat," *ketta*, but the word may mean "giantess." It is used in some MSS of the *Grettis saga* of the giantess who attacks Grettir at Sandhaugar

door of the tent: she was coal-black in colour and very fierce, for it seemed as if fire was burning from her nostrils and mouth, and her eyes were nothing fair: they were much startled at this sight, and full of fear. Then the cat leapt within the tent upon them, and gripped one after the other, and so it is said that some she swallowed and some she tore to death with claws and teeth. Twenty men she killed in a short time, and three escaped aboard ship, and stood away from the shore.

But Asbiörn went till he came to the cave of Brusi, and hastened in forthwith. It was dim before his eyes, and very shadowy in the cave, and before he was aware of it, he was caught off his feet, and thrown down so violently that it seemed strange to him. Then was he aware that there was come the giant Brusi, and he seemed to him a great one.

Then said Brusi, "Thou didst seek with great eagerness to come hither—now shalt thou have business, in that thou shalt here leave thy life with so great torments that that shall stay others from attacking me in my lair."

Then he stripped Asbiörn of his clothes, forasmuch as so great was their difference in strength that the giant could do as he wished. Asbiörn saw a great barrier standing across the cave, and a mighty opening in the midst of it, a great iron column stood somewhat in front of the barrier. "Now it must be tried," said Brusi, "whether thou art somewhat harder than other men." "Little will that be to test," said Asbiörn.

[Asbiörn then recites ten stanzas, Brusi tormenting him the while. The first stanza is almost identical with No. 50 in the *Grettis saga*.]

Then Asbiörn left his life with great valour and hardihood.

## 8.

Now it must be told concerning the three men who escaped, they rowed strongly, and stopped not until they came to land. They told the tidings of what had happened in their journey, and said that they thought that Asbiörn was dead, but that they could not tell how matters had happened concerning his death. They took ship with merchants, and so went south to

Denmark: now these tidings were spread far and wide, and seemed weighty

There had been a change of rulers in Norway. jarl Hakon was dead, and Olaf Tryggvason come to land: and he proclaimed the true faith to all. Orm Storolfson heard, out in Iceland, about the expedition of Asbiorn, and the death which it seemed to men must have come upon him. It seemed to him a great loss, and he cared no longer to be in Iceland, and took passage at Reytharfirth and went abroad. They reached Norway far to the north, and he stayed the winter at Thrandheim. Olaf at that time had reigned three years in Norway.

In the spring Orm made ready for his journey to Sandeyar, and there were nearly as many in the ship as the company of Asbiorn had been.

They landed at Little Sandey late in the evening, and pitched a tent on the land, and lay there the night ...

## 9

Now Orm went till he came to the cave. He saw the great rock, and thought it was impossible for any man to move it. Then he drew on the gloves that Menglath had given him, and grasped the rock and moved it away from the door, this is reckoned Orm's great feat of strength. Then he went into the cave, and thrust his weapon against the door. When he came in, he saw a giantess (she-cat) springing towards him with gaping jaws. Orm had a bow and quiver, he put the arrow on the string, and shot thrice at the giantess. But she seized all the arrows in her mouth, and bit them asunder. Then she flung herself upon Orm, and thrust her claws into his breast, so that Orm stumbled, and her claws went through his clothes and pierced him to the bone. She tried then to bite his face, and Orm found himself in straits. he promised then to God, and the holy apostle Peter, to go to Rome, if he conquered the giantess and Brusi her son. Then Orm felt the power of the giantess diminishing. he placed one hand round her throat, and the other round her back, and bent it till he broke it in two, and so left her dead.

Then Orm saw where a great barrier ran across the cave. he went further in, and when he came to it he saw a great shaft

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coming out through the barrier, both long and thick. Orm gripped the shaft and drew it away, Brusi pulled it towards himself, but it did not yield. Then Brusi wondered, and peeped up over the barrier. But when Orm saw that, he gripped Brusi by the beard with both hands, but Brusi pulled away, and so they tugged across the barrier. Orm twisted the beard round his hand, and tugged so violently that he pulled the flesh of Brusi away from the bone—from chin, jaws, cheeks, right up to the ears. Brusi knitted his brows and made a hideous face. Then Orm leapt in over the barrier, and they grappled and wrestled for a long time. But loss of blood wearied Brusi, and he began to fail in strength. Orm pressed on, pushed Brusi to the barrier, and broke his back across it. "Right early did my mind misgive me," said Brusi, "even so soon as I heard of thee, that I should have trouble from thee and now has that come to pass. But now make quick work, and hew off my head. And true it is that much did I torture the gallant Asbiorn, in that I tore out all his entrails—yet did he not give in, before he died." "Ill didst thou do," said Orm, "to torture him, so fine a man as he was, and thou shalt have something in memory thereof." Then he drew his knife, and cut the "blood eagle" in the back of Brusi, shore off his ribs and drew out his lungs. So Brusi died in cowardly wise. Then Orm took fire, and burned to ashes both Brusi and the giantess. And when he had done that, he left the cave, with two chests full of gold and silver.

And all that was most of value he gave to Menglath, and the island likewise. So they parted with great friendship, and Orm came to his men at the time appointed, and then they sailed to the mainland. Orm remained a second winter at Thrandheim.

### F. A DANISH DRAGON-SLAYING OF THE BEOWULF-TYPE

Paa den Tid, da kong Gram Guldskjelve regjerede i Leire, vare der ved Hoffet to Ministre, Bessus og Henrik. Og da der paa samme Tid indkom idelige klager fra Indbyggerne i Vendsyssel, at et grueligt Udyr, som Bønderne kaldte Landorm, ødelagde baade Mennesker og Kreaturer, gav Bessus det Raad, at Kongen skulde sende Henrik did hen, efterdi ingen i det ganske Rige kunde maale sig med ham in Tapperhed og Mod. Da svarede

Henrik, at han vel vilde paatage sig dette, dog tilføjede han, at han ansaae det for umuligt at slippe fra saadan Kamp med Livet. Og belavede han sig da strax til Reisen, tog rørende Afsked med sin Herre og Konge og sagde iblandt andet: "Herre! om jeg ikke kommer tilbage, da sørg for min kone og for mine Børn!" Da han derefter var kommen over til Vendsyssel, lod han sig af Bønderne vise det Sted, hvor Uhyret havde sit Leie, og fik da at vide, at Ormen endnu den samme Dag havde været ude af Hulen og borttaget en Hyrde og en Oxe, og at den efter Sædvane nu ikke vilde komme ud, førend om tre Timer, naar den skulde ned til Vandet for at drikke efter Maaltidet. Henrik iførte sig da sin fulde Rustning, og eftersom Ingen vovede at staae ham bi i dette Arbejde, lagde han sig ganske alene ved Vandet, dog saaledes, at Vinden ikke bar fra ham henimod Dyret. Da udsendte han først en vældig Pøl fra sin Bue, men uagtet den rammede nøie det sted, hvortil han havde sigtet, tørnede den dog tilbage fra Ormens haarde Skæl. Herover blev Uhyret saa optændt af Vrede, at det strax gik henimod ham, agtende ham kun et ringe Maaltid; men Henrik havde iforveien hos en Smed ladet sig gjøre en stor Krog med Gjenhold, hvilken han jog ind i Beestets aabne Gab, saa at det ikke kunde blive den qvit, ihvormeget det end arbejdede, og ihvorvel Jernstangen brast i Henriks Hænder. Da slog det ham med sin vældige Hale til Jorden, og skøndt han havde fuldkommen Jernrustning paa, kradsede det dog med sine forfærdelige Klør saa at han, næsten dødeligt saaret, faldt i Besvimelse. Men da han, efterat Ormen i nogen Tid havde haft ham liggende under sin Bug, endelig kom lidt til sin Samling igen, greb han af yderste Evne en Daggert, af hvilke han førte flere med sig i sit Bælte, og stak Dyret dermed i underlivet, hvor Skællene vare blødest, saa at det tilsidst maatte udpuste sin giftige Aande, medens han selv laae halv knust under dens Byrde. Da Bønderne i Vendsyssel som stode i nogen Afstand, under megen Frygt og lidet Haab omsider mærkede, at Striden sagtnede, og at begge Parter holdte sig rolige, nærmede de sig og fandt Hr. Henrik næsten livløs under det dræbte Udyr. Og efterat de i nogen Tid havde givet ham god Pleie, vendte han tilbage for at dø hos sin Konge, til hvem han gentagende anbefalede sin

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Slægt. Fra ham nedstammer Familien Lindenroth, som til Minde om denne vældige Strid fører en Lindorm i sit Vaaben.

MS 222. 4°. Stamme och Slectebog over den høiadelige Familie af Lindenroth, in *Danmarks Folkesagn*, samlede af J. M. Thiele, 1843, I, 125-7.

### A DANISH DRAGON-SLAYING OF THE BEOWULF-TYPE.

#### *Translation.*

In the days when King Gram Guldskjelve ruled in Leire, there were two ministers at court, Bessus and Henry. And at that time constant complaints came to the court from the inhabitants of Vendsyssel, that a dread monster, which the peasants called a Drake, was destroying both man and beast. So Bessus gave counsel, that the king should send Henry against the dragon, seeing that no one in the whole kingdom was his equal in valour and courage. Henry answered that assuredly he would undertake it; but he added that he thought it impossible to escape from such a struggle with his life. And he made himself ready forthwith for the expedition, took a touching farewell of his lord and king, and said among other things "My lord, if I come not back, care thou for my wife and my children."

Afterwards, when he crossed over to Vendsyssel, he caused the peasants to show him the place where the monster had its lair, and learnt how that very day the drake had been out of its den, and had carried off a herdsman and an ox; how, according to its wont, it would now not come out for three hours, when it would want to go down to the water to drink after its meal. Henry clothed himself in full armour, and inasmuch as no one dared to stand by him in that task, he lay down all alone by the water, but in such wise that the wind did not blow from him toward the monster. First of all he sent a mighty arrow from his bow but, although it exactly hit the spot at which he had aimed, it darted back from the dragon's hard scales. At this the monster was so maddened, that it attacked him forthwith, reckoning him but a little meal. But Henry had had a mighty barbed crook prepared by a smith beforehand, which he thrust into the beast's open mouth so that it could

not get rid of it, however much it strove, although the iron rod broke in Henry's hands. Then it smote him to the ground with its mighty tail, and although he was in complete armour, clutched at him with its dread claws, so that he fell in a swoon, wounded almost to death. But when he came somewhat to his senses again, after the drake for some time had had him lying under its belly, he rallied his last strength and grasped a dagger, of which he carried several with him in his belt, and smote it therewith in the belly, where the scales were weakest. So the monster at last breathed out its poisoned breath, whilst he himself lay half crushed under its weight. When the Vendsyssel peasants, who stood some distance away, in great fear and little hope, at last noticed that the battle had slackened, and that both combatants were still, they drew near and found Henry almost lifeless under the slain monster. And after they for some time had tended him well, he returned to die by his king, to whom he again commended his offspring. From him descends the family Lindenroth, which in memory of this mighty contest carries a drake on its coat of arms.

This story resembles the dragon fight in *Beowulf*, in that the hero faces the dragon as protector of the land, with forebodings, and after taking farewell, he attacks the dragon in its lair, single-handed, his first attack is frustrated by the dragon's scales, in spite of apparatus specially prepared, he is wounded and stunned by the dragon, but nevertheless smites the dragon in the soft parts and slays him, the watchers draw near when the fight is over. Yet these things merely prove that the two stories are of the same type, there is no evidence that this story is descended from *Beowulf*.

## G. THE OLD ENGLISH GENEALOGIES.

### I. THE MERCIAN GENEALOGY.

Of the Old English Genealogies, the only one which, in its stages below Woden, immediately concerns the student of *Beowulf* is the Mercian. This contains three names which also occur in *Beowulf*, though two of them in a corrupt form—Offa, Wermund (Garmund, *Beowulf*), and Eomær (Geomor, *Beowulf*).

This Mercian pedigree is found in its best form in *MS Cotton Vesp B VI*, fol 109 b,<sup>1</sup> and in the sister MS at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (*C.C.C.* 183)<sup>2</sup>. Both these MSS are of

<sup>1</sup> See Sweet, *Oldest English Texts*, 1885, p. 170

<sup>2</sup> See *Catalogue of MSS in the Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge* by Montague Rhodes James, Camb., 1912, p. 437.



the 9th century. They contain lists of popes and bishops, and pedigrees of kings. By noting where these lists stop, we get a limit for the final compilation of the document. It must have been drawn up in its present form between 811 and 814<sup>1</sup>. But it was obviously compiled from lists already existing, and some of them were even at that date old. For the genealogy of the Mercian kings, from Woden, is not traced directly down to this period 811-814, but in the first place only as far as Æthelred (reigning 675-704), son of Penda: that is to say, it stops considerably more than a century before the date of the document in which it appears. Additional pedigrees are then appended which show the subsequent stages down to and including Cenwulf, king of Mercia (reigning 796-821). It is difficult to account for such an arrangement except on the hypothesis that the genealogy was committed to writing in the reign of Æthelred, the monarch with whose name it terminates in its first form, and was then brought up to date by the addition of the supplementary names ending with Cenwulf. This is confirmed when we find that precisely the same arrangement holds good for the accompanying Northumbrian pedigree, which terminates with Ecgrith (670-685), the contemporary of Æthelred of Mercia, and is then brought up to date by additional names.

Genealogies which draw from the same source as the *Vespasian* genealogies, and show the same peculiarities, are found in the *Historia Brittonum* (§§ 57-61). They show, even more emphatically than do the *Vespasian* lists, traces of having been originally drawn up in the time of Æthelred of Mercia (675-704) or possibly of his father Penda, and of having then been brought up to date in subsequent revisions<sup>2</sup>.

One such revision must have been made about 796<sup>3</sup> it is a

<sup>1</sup> See *Publications of the Palæographical Society*, 1880, where a facsimile of part of the *Vespasian MS* is given (Pt 10, Plate 165 subsequently Ser 1, Vol II.)

<sup>2</sup> So Zimmer, *Nennius Vindictus*, Berlin, 1893, pp 78 etc., and Duchesne (*Revue Celtique*, xv, 196). Duchesne sums up these genealogies as "un recueil constitué, vers la fin du vii<sup>e</sup> siècle, dans le royaume de Strathclyud, mais complété par diverses retouches, dont la dernière est de 796."

<sup>3</sup> This is shown by one of the supplementary Mercian pedigrees being made to end, both in the *Vespasian* genealogy and the *Historia Brittonum*, in Ecgrith, who reigned for a few months in 796. See Thurneysen (*Z f d Ph* xxviii, 101).

modification of this revision which is found in the *Historia Brittonum*. Another was that which, as we have seen, must have been made between 811–814, and in this form is found in *MS Cotton Vespasian B. VI*, *MS C C C C. 183*, both of the 9th century, and in the (much later) *MS Cotton Tiberius B. V*.

The genealogy up to Penda is also found in the *A-S. Chronicle* under the year 626 (accession of Penda).

This Mercian list, together with the Northumbrian and other pedigrees which accompany it, can claim to be the earliest extant English historical document, having been written down in the 7th century, and recording historic names which (allowing thirty years for a generation) cannot be later than the 4th century A D In most similar pedigrees the earliest names are meaningless to us But the Mercian pedigree differs from the rest, in that we are able from *Beowulf*, *Widsith*, Saxo Grammaticus, Sweyn Aageson and the *Vitae Offarum*, to attach stories to the names of Wermund and Offa. How much of these stories is history, and how much fiction, it is difficult to say—but, with them, extant English history and English poetry and English fiction alike have their beginning.

MS Cotton Vesp. B. VI.

Aeðilred	Peding
Penda	Pypbing
Pypba	Criodrig
Crioda	Cynewalding
Cynewald	Cnebbing
Cnebbra	Icling
Iccl	Eamering
Eamer	Angengeotung
Angengeot	Offing
Offa	Uærmunding
Uermund	Uihltægung
Uihltæg	Wioðulgeotung
Weoðulgeot	Wodning
Woden	Frealaefing

MS C C C C. 183.

Æðelred	Pending
Penda	Pybbing
Pybba	Creodrig
Creoda	Cynewalding
Cynewald	Cnebbing
Cnebbra	Icling
Icel	Eomærung
Eomær	Angengeotung
Angengiut	Offing
Offa	Wærmunding
Wærmund	Wihltægung
Wihltæg	Wioðolgeotung
Weoðolgiut	Wodning
Woden	Frealaefing

<i>Historia Brittonum</i> <sup>1</sup> . MS Harl 3859.	<i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> . MSS Cotton Tib. A. VI. and B. I. <sup>2</sup>	
Penda	Penda	Pybbing
Pubba	Pybba	Creoding
	Creoda	Cynewalding
	Cynewald	Cnebbing
	Cnebba	Iceling
	Icel	Eomæring
Eamer	Eomær	Angelþeowing
Ongen	Angelþeow	Offing
Offa	Offa	Wærmunding
Guermund	Wærmund	Whtlæging
Gunthleg	Whtlæg	Wodening
Gueagon		
Guedolgeat		
[U]Uoden		

## II. THE STAGES ABOVE WODEN

### (1) WODEN TO GEAT.

The stages above Woden are found in two forms a short list which traces the line from Woden up to Geat and a longer list which carries the line from Geat to Scaef and through Noah to Adam.

The line from Woden to Geat is found in the *Historia Brittonum*, not with the other genealogies, but in § 31, where the pedigree of the Kentish royal family is given, when the arrival of Hengest in Britain is recounted. Notwithstanding the dispute regarding the origin and date of the *Historia Brittonum*, there is a pretty general agreement that this *Woden to Geat* pedigree is one of the more primitive elements, and is not likely to be much later than the end of the 7th century<sup>3</sup>. The original nucleus of the *Historia Brittonum* was revised by

<sup>1</sup> Ed Mommsen, p 203

<sup>2</sup> Anno 626 a similar genealogy will be found in these MSS and in the Parker MS, anno 755 (accession of Offa II)

<sup>3</sup> Zimmer (*Nennius Vindictus*, p 84) argues that this *Geta-Woden* pedigree belongs to a portion of the *Historia Brittonum* written down A.D. 685. Thurneysen (*ZfdPh* xxviii, 103-4) dates the section in which it occurs 679. Duchesne (*Revue Celtique*, xv, 196) places it more vaguely between the end of the sixth and the beginning of the eighth century, van Hamel (*Hoops Reallexikon s v Nennius*) between much the same limits, and clearly before 705.

Nennius in the 9th century, or possibly at the end of the 8th<sup>1</sup>. The earliest MS of the *Historia*, that of Chartres, belongs to the 9th or 10th century—this is fragmentary and already interpolated; the received text is based upon *MS Harleian* 3859, dating from the end of the 11th century<sup>2</sup>, or possibly somewhat later.

I give the pedigree in four forms:

A. The critical text of the *Historia Brittonum* as edited by Th. Mommsen, (*Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Auct. Antiq., Chronica Minora*, III, Berolini, 1898, p. 171).

B *MS Harl.* 3859, upon which Mommsen's text is based, fol. 180.

C The *Chartres MS.*

D. Mommsen's critical text of the later revision, *Nennius interpretatus*, which he gives parallel to the *Historia Brittonum*.

A	B	C	D
Hors et Hengist	Hors & Hengist	Cors et Haecgens	Hors et Hengist
filii Guictgils	filii Guictgils	filii Guictils	filii Guictgils
Guigta	Guitta	Guicta	Guigta
Guectha	Guectha	Gueta	Guectha
VVoden	VVoden	VVoden	Voden
Frealaf	Frealaf	Frelab	Frealaf
Fredulf	Fredulf	Freudulf	Fredolf
Finn	Finn	Fran	Finn
			Frenn
Fodepald	Fodepald	Folcpald	Folevald
Geta	Geta	G[ <del>e</del> ]uta	Gaeta
qui fuit, ut aiunt,	qui fuit, ut aiunt,	qui sunt [ <i>sic</i> ], ut	Vanli
filius dei	filius dei	aiunt, filius dei	Saxi
			Negua

*MS Cotton Vespasian B. VI* (9th century) contains a number of Anglo-Saxon genealogies and other lists revised up to the period 811–14<sup>3</sup>. The genealogy of the kings of Lindsey in this list has the stages from Woden to Geat. This genealogy is also found in the sister list in the 9th century MS at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (*MS C C C C.* 183).

<sup>1</sup> Zimmer (p. 275) says A D 796, Duchesne (p. 196) A D 800, Thurneysen (*Zeitschr. f. Celtische Philologie*, I, 166) A D 826, Skene (*Four Ancient Books of Wales*, 1868, I, 38) A D 858, van Hamel (p. 304) A D 820–859. See also Chadwick, *Origin*, 38.

<sup>2</sup> Bradshaw, *Investigations among Early Welsh, Breton and Cornish MSS.* in *Collected Papers*, 466.

<sup>3</sup> See above, p. 196.

A similar list is to be found in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (entered under the year 547) But there it is appended to the genealogy of the Northumbrian kings. This genealogy has been erased in the oldest MS (Parker, end of the 9th century) to make room for later additions, but is found in *MSS Cotton Tibernus A. VI* and *B. I*

<i>Cotton (Vespasian) MS</i>	<i>Corpus MS</i>	<i>A-S Chronicle</i>
UUoden Frealaſing	Woden Frealaſing	Woden Freopolafing
Frealaf Frioðulſing	Frealaf Frioðowulſing (sic)	Freopelaſ Freopulſing
Frioðulf Finning	Freopowulf Godwulſing	Frioðulf Finning
Finn Godulſing		Finn Godulſing
Godulf Geotang	Godwulf Geating	Godulf Geating

The *Fodepald* or *Folcpald* who, in the *Historia Brittonum*, appears as the father of Finn, is clearly the *Folcwalda* who appears as Finn's father in *Beowulf* and *Widsith* The Old English *w* (*p*) has been mistaken for *p*, just as in *Pinefred* for *Winefred* in the *Life of Offa II* In the *Vespasian MS* and in other genealogies Godwulf is Finn's father It has been very generally held that Finn and his father Godwulf are mythical heroes, quite distinct from the presumably historic Finn, son of Folcwalda, mentioned in *Beowulf* and *Widsith* and that by confusion *Folcwald* came to be written instead of *Godwulf* in the genealogy, as given in the *Historia Brittonum* I doubt whether there is sufficient justification for this distinction between a presumed historic Finn Folcwalding and a mythical Finn Godwulſing. Is it not possible that Godwulf was a traditional, probably historic, king of the Frisians, father of Finn, and that *Folcwalda*<sup>1</sup> was a *title* which, since it alliterated conveniently, in the end supplanted the proper name in epic poetry?

### III THE STAGES ABOVE WODEN

#### (2) WODEN TO SCEAF.

The stages above Geat are found in the genealogy of the West-Saxon kings only<sup>2</sup>. This is recorded in the *Chronicle*

<sup>1</sup> Cf *Bretwalda*

<sup>2</sup> The genealogies have recently been dealt with by E Hackenberg, *Die Stammtafeln der angelsächsischen Königreiche*, Berlin, 1918, and by Brandl, (*Herrig's Archiv*, CXXXVII, 1-24) Most of Brandl's derivations seem to me to depend upon very perilous conjectures. Thus he derives *Scefig* from the Gr-Lat. *scapha*, "a skiff": a word which was not adopted into Old English This seems to be sacrificing all probability to the desire to find a new interpretation:

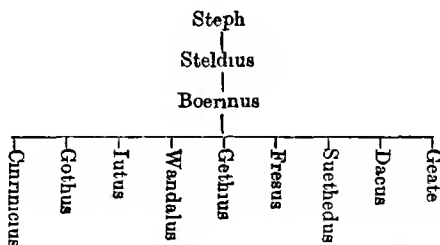
under the year 855 (notice concerning Æthelwulf) and it was probably drawn up at the court of that king. Though it doubtless contains ancient names, it is apparently not so ancient as the *Woden-Geat* list. It became very well known, and is also found in Asser and the *Textus Roffensis*. It was copied by later historians such as William of Malmesbury, and by the Icelandic genealogists<sup>1</sup>

The principal versions of this pedigree are given in tabular form below (pp. 202-3), omitting the merely second-hand reproductions, such as those of Florence of Worcester.

# H EXTRACT FROM THE CHRONICLE ROLL

This roll was drawn up in the reign of Henry VI, and its compiler must have had access to a document now lost.

There are many copies of the roll extant—the “Moseley” Roll at University College, London (formerly in the Philipps collection); at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (No 98 A), at Trinity College, Cambridge, and in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris<sup>2</sup>, and one which recently came into the market in London.



[continued on p 204]

and, even so, it is not quite successful. For Riley in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, August, 1857, p 126, suggested the derivation of the name of Scelf from the *schiff* or *skiff* in which he came.

<sup>1</sup> For a list of the Icelandic versions, see Heusler, *Die gelehrte Urgeschichte im altnordischen Schrifttum*, pp 18-19, in the *Abhandlungen d preuss Akad*, *Phil Hist Klasse*, 1908, Berlin.

<sup>2</sup> The names are given as in the Trinity Roll (T), collated with Corpus (C) and Moseley (M). For Paris (P) I follow Kemble's report (*Postscript to Preface*, 1837, pp vii, viii *Stammtafel der Westsachsen*, pp 18, 31). All seem to agree in writing *t* for *c* in Steph and Steldius, and in Boernus, obviously, as Kemble pointed out, *r* is written by error for *p* = *Beornus* [or *Beowus*], Cinnricus T, Cinnricus C, Cinnricus P, Siurricus M, Suethedus TCP, Suechedius M, Gethus T, Thecius M, Ehecius CP, Geate T, Geate CM, Geathus P.







The following marginal note occurs:

Iste Steldius primus inhabitator Germanie fuit Que Germania sic dicta erat, quia instar ramorum germinantium ab arbore, sic nomen regnaque germania nuncupantur In nouem filius diuisa a radice Boerini geminauerunt Ab istis nouem filius Boerini descenderunt nouem gentes septentrionalem partem inhabitantes, qui quondam regnum Britannie inuaserunt et optinuerunt, videlicet Saxones, Angli, Iuthi, Daci, Norwagences, Gothi, Wandal, Geathi et Fresi<sup>1</sup>.

## I. EXTRACT FROM THE LITTLE CHRONICLE OF THE KINGS OF LEIRE

From the *Annales Lundenses* These Annals are comparatively late, going up to the year 1307, but the short *Chronicle of the Kings of Leire*, which is incorporated in them, is supposed to date from the latter half of the 12th century. The text is given in Langebek, *Scriptores Rerum Danicarum*, I, 224-6 (under the name of *Annales Esromenses*) from *Cod. Arn Mag 841* There is a critical edition by Gertz, *Scriptores Minores historię Danicę*, Copenhagen, 1917, based upon *Cod Arn Mag 843* The text given below is mainly that of Langebek, with corrections from Gertz's fine edition. See below, p 216.

Erat ergo Dan rex in Dacia<sup>2</sup> per triennium Anno tandem tertio cognouit uxorem suam Daniam, genuitque ex ea filium nomine Ro. Qui post patris obitum hereditarie possidebat regnum Patrem uero suum Dan colle apud Lethram tumultauit Sialandię, ubi sedem regni pro eo pater constituit, quam ipse post eum diutius multiplicibus ditauit Tempore illo ciuitas magna erat in medio Sialandię, ubi adhuc mons desertus est, nomine Hekebiarch, ubi sita erat ciuitas quę Høkekoping nuncupata est, ad quam ut mox Ro rex uidit, quod mercatores a nauibus in uia currus conducentes multum expenderent, a loco illo ciuitatem amoueri iussit ad portum, ubi tenditur Isæfiorth, et circa fontem pulcherrimum domos disponere. Ædificauit ibi Ro ciuitatem honestam, cui nomen partitium imposuit post se et Fontem, partem capiens fontis partemque sui, Roskildam Danice uocans, quę hoc nomine uoca[b]itur<sup>3</sup> in æternum Uixit autem rex Ro ita pacifice, ut nullus ei aciem opponeret, nec ipse usquam expeditionem direxit<sup>4</sup> Erat autem uxor eius

<sup>1</sup> I follow the spelling of the Moseley roll in this note

<sup>2</sup> *Dacia* = "Denmark" *Dacia* and *Dania* were identified

<sup>3</sup> *uocabitur*, Gertz, *uocatur*, all MSS

<sup>4</sup> This account of the peaceful reign of Ro is simply false etymology from Danish *ro*, "rest"

fecunda sobole, ex qua genuit duos filios, nomen primi Helghi et secundi Haldan<sup>1</sup> Cumque cepissent pueri robore confortari et crescere, obit pater eorum Ro, et sepultus est tumulo quodam Læthræ, post cuius obitum partiti sunt regnum filii, quod in duas partes diuidentes, alter terras, alter mare possidebat. Rexit itaque terras Haldanus, et genuit filium nomine Siwardum, cognomine Album, qui patrem suum Haldanum Læthræ tumulauit mortuum Helgi autem rex erat marinus, et multos ad se traxit malignos, nauali bello bene adeptus diuersas partes, quasdam pace, quasdam cum piratica classe<sup>2</sup> petisse perhibetur..

The Chronicle then tells how Rolf was born, the son of Helgi and Yrse or Ursula. also of the death and burial of Helgi

Filius autem eius et Ursulæ puer crescebat Rolf et fortitudine uigebat Mater uero eius Ursula, uelo uiduitatis deposita, data est regi Suethiæ Athislø, qui ex ea filiam sibi genuit, Rolf uero ex matre eius sororem nomine Skuld Interea dum hæc de rege marino Helgi agerentur, frater eius, rex Daciæ, mortuus est Haldanus Post quem<sup>3</sup> rex Sweciæ Athisl a Danis suscepit tributum.

\* \* \* \*

Interea confortabatur filius Helgi, Rolff, cognomine Krake Quem post mortem Snyo<sup>4</sup> Dani [in]<sup>5</sup> regem assumpserunt. Qui Sialandiæ apud Lethram, sicut antecessores sui, sæpissime moratus est Sororem suam nomine Sculd secum habuit, Athislø regis filiam, et suæ matris Ursulæ, de qua superius dictum est, quam fraterno amore dilexit Cui provinciam Hornshæ-ræth Sialandiæ ad pascendas puellas suas in expensam dedit, in qua uillam ædificauit, nomine Sculdelef, unde nomen suscepit. Hoc tempore erat quidam Comes Scaniæ, nomine Hiarwarth, Teoticus genere, Rolf tributarius, qui ad eum procos misit, ut

<sup>1</sup> Note that Ro (Hrothgar), the son of Haldanus (Healfdene), is here represented as his father Saxo Grammaticus, combining divergent accounts, as he often does, accordingly mentions two Roes—one the brother of Haldanus, the other his son See above, pp 131-2

<sup>2</sup> *cum piratica classe*, Langebek, the mss have *cum pietate* (1) with or without *classe*

<sup>3</sup> *post quem*, Hotter Eggei, Gertz, *postquam*, all mss

<sup>4</sup> Snyo the viceroy whom Athisl had placed over the Danes.

<sup>5</sup> *in* added by Gertz, omitted in all mss

sororem suam Sculd Hiarwardo daret uxorem Quo nolente, propria ipsius uoluntate puellæ clanculo eam raptam sociauit sibi. Unde conspirauerunt inter se deliberantes Hiarwart et Sculd, quomodo Rolf interficeretur, et Hiarwardus superstes regni heres efficeretur Non post multum vero temporis animosus ad uxoris exhortationem Hiarwart Sialandiam classe petuit. Genero suo Rolff tributum attulisse simulauit. Die quadam dilucescente ad Læthram misit, ut uideret tributum, Rolff nunciauit. Qui cum uidisset non tributum sed exercitum armatum, uallatus est Rolff militibus, et a Hyarwardo interfectus est Hyarwardum autem Syalandenses et Scanienses, qui cum eo erant, in regem assumpserunt. Qui breui tempore, a mane usque ad primam, regali nomine potitus est Tunc uenit Haky, frater Haghbardi, filius Hamundi, Hyarwardum interfecit et Danorum rex effectus est Quo regnante, uenit quidam nomine Fritleff a partibus Septentrionalibus et filiam sibi desponsauit Rolff Crake, ex qua filium nomine Frothe genuit, cognomine Largus.

#### K. THE STORY OF OFFA IN SAXO GRAMMATICUS

Book IV, ed. Ascensius, fol xxxii b, ed Holder, pp 106-7.

Cui filius Wermundus succedit Hic prolixis tranquillitatis otus felicissima temporum quiete decursis, diutinam domesticæ pacis constantiam inconcussa rerum securitate tractabat Idem prolix expers iuuentam exegit, senior uero filium Uffionem sero fortunæ munere suscitauit, cum nullam ei sobolem elapsa tot annorum curricula peperissent. Hic Uffo coæuos quosque corporis habitu supergressus, adeo hebetis ineptique animi principio iuuentæ existimatus est, ut priuatis ac publicis rebus inutilis uideretur Siquidem ab ineunte ætate nunquam lusus aut ioci consuetudinem præbuit, adeoque humanæ delectationis uacuus fuit, ut labiorum continentiam iugi silentio premeret, et seueritatem oris a ridendi prorsus officio temperaret. Uerum ut incunabula stoliditatis opinione referta habuit, ita post modum conditionis contemptum claritate mutauit, et quantum inertæ spectaculum fuit, tantum prudentiæ et fortitudinis exemplum euasit.

Book IV, ed. Ascensius, fol. xxxiv b; ed. Holder, pp. 113-7.

Cumque Wermundus ætatis uitio oculis orbaretur, Saxonie rex, Daniam duce uacuum ratus, ei per legatos mandat, regnum, quod præter ætatis debitum teneat, sibi procurandum committat, ne nimis longa imperii auditate patriam legibus armisque destituat. Qualiter enim regem censi posse, cui senectus animum, cæcitas oculum pari caliginis horrore fuscauerit? Quod si abnuat, filiumque habeat, qui cum suo ex prouocatione configere audeat, uictorem regno potiri permittat. Si neutrum probet, armis secum, non monitis agendum cognoscat, ut tandem inuitus præbeat, quod ultroneus exhibere contemnat. Ad hæc Wermundus, altioribus suspiriis fractus, impudentius se ætatis exprobratione lacerari respondit, quem non ideo huc infelicitatis senectus prouexerit, quod pugnae parcus timidius iuuentam exegerit. Nec aptius sibi cæcitatæ uitium obiectari, quod plerunque talem ætatis habitum talis iactura consequi soleat, potiusque condolendum calamitati quam insultandum uideatur. Iustius autem Saxonie regi impatientie notam afferri posse, quem potius senis fatum operiri, quam imperium poscere decuisset, quod aliquanto præstet defuncto succedere, quam uiuum spoliare. Se tamen, ne tanquam delirus priscae libertatis titulos externo uideatur mancipare dominio, propria manu prouocationi pariturum. Ad hæc legati, scire se inquirunt, regem suum conserendæ cum cæco manus ludibrium perhorrere, quod tam ridiculum decernendi genus rubori quam honestati propinquius habeatur. Aptius uero per utriusque pignus et sanguinem amborum negotio consuli. Ad hæc obstupefactis animo Danis, subitaque responsi ignorantia perculsis, Uffo, qui forte cum ceteris aderat, responsionis a patre licentiam flagitabat, subitoque uelut ex muto uocalis euasit. Cumque Wermundus, quisnam talem a se loquendi copiam postularet, inquireret, ministrique eum ab Uffone rogari dixissent, satis esse perhibuit, ut infelicitatis suæ uulneribus alienorum fastus illuderet, ne etiam a domesticis simili insultationis petulantia uexaretur. Sed satellitibus Uffonem hunc esse pertinaci affirmatione testantibus, "Liberum ei sit," inquit, "quisquis est, cogitata profari." Tum Uffo, frustra ab eorum rege regnum appeti, inquit, quod tam proprii rectoris officio quam fortissi-

morum procerum armis industriaque niteretur: præterea, nec regi filium nec regno successorem deesse. Sciantque, se non solum regis eorum filium, sed etiam quemcunque ex gentis suæ fortissimis secum adsciuerit, simul pugna aggredi constituisse. Quo audito legati risere, uanam dicti animositatem existimantes. Nec mora, condicatur pugnae locus, eidemque stata temporis meta præfigitur. Tantum autem stuporis Uffo loquendi ac prouocandi nouitate præsentibus iniecit, ut, utrum uoci eius an fiducia plus admirationis tributum sit, incertum extiterit.

Abeuntibus autem legatis, Wermundus, responsionis auctore laudato, quod uirtutis fiduciam non in unius, sed duorum prouocatione statuerit, potius se ei, quicumque sit, quam superbo hosti regno cessurum perhibuit. Uniuersis autem filium eius esse testantibus, qui legatorum fastum fiduciæ sublimitate contempserit, propius eum accedere iubet quod oculis nequeat, manibus experturus. Corpore deinde eius curiosius contrectato, cum ex artuum granditate lineamentisque filium esse cognosset, fidem assertoribus habere cœpit, percontarique eum, cur suauissimum uocis habitum summo dissimulationis studio tegendum curauerit, tantoque ætatis spatio sine uoce et cunctis loquendi commercijs degere sustinuerit, ut se linguæ prorsus officio defectum natiuæque taciturnitatis uitio obsitum credi permetteret? Qui respondit, se paterna hactenus defensione contentum, non prius uocis officio opus habuisse, quam domesticam prudentiam externa loquacitate pressam animaduerneret. Rogatus item ab eo, cur duos quam unum prouocare maluit, hunc iccirco dimicationis modum a se exoptatum respondit, ut Athisi regis oppressio, quæ, quod a duobus gesta fuerat, Danis opprobrio extabat, unius facinore pensaretur, nouumque uirtutis specimen prisca ruboris monumenta conuelleret. Ita antiquæ crimen infamiæ recentis famæ litura respergendum dicebat. Quem Wermundus iustam omnium æstimationem fecisse testatus, armorum usum, quod eis parum assueuisset, prædiscere iubet. Quibus Uffo oblatis, magnitudine pectoris angustos loricarum nexus explicuit, nec erat ullam reperire, quæ eum iusto capacitatis spatio contineret. Maiore siquidem corpore erat, quam ut alienis armis uti posset. Ad ultimum, cum paternam quoque

loricam uiolenta corporis astrictione dissolueret, Wermundus eam a læuo latere dissecari, fibulaque sarciri præcepit, partem, quæ clypei præsidio muniatur, ferro patere parui existimans. Sed et gladium, quo tuto uti possit, summa ab eo cura conscisci iussit. Oblatis compluribus, Uffo manu capulum stringens, frustatim singulos agitando comminuit, nec erat quisquam ex eis tanti rigoris gladius, quem non ad primæ concussionis motum crebra partium fractione dissolueret. Erat autem regi inusitati acuminis gladius, Skrep dictus, qui quodlibet obstaculi genus uno ferientis ictu medium penetrando diffinderet, nec adeo quicquam prædurum foret, ut adactam eius aciem remorari potuisset. Quem ne posteris fruendum relinquere, per summam alienæ commoditatis inuidiam in profunda defoderat, utilitatem ferri, quod filii incrementis diffideret, ceteris negaturus. Interrogatus autem, an dignum Uffonis robore ferrum haberet, habere se dixit, quod, si pridem a se terræ traditum recognito locorum habitu reperire potuisset, aptum corporis eius uiribus exhiberet. In campum deinde perducere se iubens, cum, interrogatis per omnia comitibus, defossionis locum acceptis signorum indicibus comperisset, extractum cauo gladium filio porrigit. Quem Uffo nimia uetustate fragilem exesumque conspiciens, ferendi diffidentia percontatur, an hunc quoque priorum exemplo probare debeat, prius habitum eius, quam rem ferro geri oporteat, explorandum testatus. Refert Wermundus, si præsens ferrum ab ipso uentilando collideretur, non superesse, quod uirum eius habitui responderet. Abstinendum itaque facto, cuius in dubio exitus maneat.

Igitur ex pacto pugnae locus expetitur. Hunc fluuius Eidorus ita aquarum ambitu uallat, ut earum interstitio repugnante, nauigii duntaxat aditus pateat. Quem Uffone sine comite petente, Saxoniae regis filium insignis uiribus athleta consequitur, crebris utrinque turbis alternos riparum anfractus spectandi auditate complentibus. Cunctis igitur huic spectaculo oculos inferentibus, Wermundus in extrema pontis parte se collocat, si filium uinci contigisset, flumine periturus. Maluit enim sanguinis sui ruinam comitari, quam patriæ interitum plenis doloris sensibus intueri. Uerum Uffo, geminis iuuenum congressibus lacessitus, gladii diffidentia amborum ictus umbone

uitabat, patientius experiri constituens, quem e duobus attentius cauere debuisset, ut hunc saltem uno ferri impulsu contineret. Quem Wermundus imbecillitatis uitio tantam recipiendorum ictuum patientiam præstare existimans, paulatim in occiduam pontis oram mortis cupiditate se protrahit, si de filio actum foret, fatum precipitio petiturus. Tanta sanguinis caritate flagrantem senem fortuna protexit. Uffo siquidem filium regis ad secum audius decernendum hortatus, claritatem generis ab ipso conspicuo fortitudinis opere æquari iubet, ne rege ortum plebeius comes uirtute præstare uideatur. Athletam deinde, explorandæ eius fortitudinis gratia, ne domini sui terga timidius subsequeretur, admonitum fiduciam a regis filio in se repositam egregius dimicationis operibus pensare præcepit, cuius delectu unicus pugnæ comes adscitus fuerit. Obtemperantem illum propiusque congregi rubore compulsum, primo ferri ictu medium dissecat. Quo sono recreatus Wermundus, filii ferrum audire se dixit, rogatque, cui potissimum parti ictum inflixerit. Referentibus deinde ministris, eum non unam corporis partem, sed totam hominis transegisse compagem, abstractum præcipitio corpus ponti restituit, eodem studio lucem expetens, quo fatum optauerat. Tum Uffo, reliquum hostem prioris exemplo consumere cupiens, regis filium ad ultionem interfecti pro se satellitis manibus parentationis loco erogandam impensioribus uerbis sollicitat. Quem propius accedere sua adhortatione coactum, infligendi ictus loco curiosius denotato, gladioque, quod tenuem eius laminam suis imparem uiribus formidaret, in aciem alteram uerso, penetrabili corporis sectione transuerberat. Quo audito Wermundus Screp gladii sonum secundo suis auribus incessisse perhibuit. Affirmantibus deinde arbitris, utrumque hostem ab eius filio consumptum, nimietate gaudii uultum fletu soluit. Ita genas, quas dolor madidare non poterat, lætitia rigauit. Saxonibus igitur pudore mœstis, pugilumque funus summa cum ruboris acerbitate ducentibus, Uffonem Dani iocundis exceperere tripudus. Queuit tum Athislantæ cædis infamia, Saxonumque obprobrium expirauit.

Ita Saxoniarum regnum ad Danos translatum, post patrem Uffo regendum suscepit, utriusque imperii procurator effectus,

qui ne unum quidem rite moderaturus credebatur. Hic a compluribus Olauus est dictus, atque ob animi moderationem Mansueti cognomine donatus. Cuius sequentes actus uetustatis uirtio solennem fefellere notitiam. Sed credi potest, gloriosos eorum processus extitisse, quorum tam plena laudis principia fuerint

# L. FROM SKIOLD TO OFFA IN SWEYN AAGESON

In Langebek, *Scriptores*, I, 44-7, Gertz, I, 97.

## CAP. I.

### De primo Rege Danorum

Skiold Danis primum didici præfuisse Et ut eius alludamus uocabulo, ideo talī functus est nomine, quia uniuersos regni terminos regiæ defensionis patrocinio affatim egregie tuebatur A quo primum, modis Islandensibus, "Skioldunger" sunt reges nuncupati Qui regni post se rehquit hæredes, Frothi uidelicet et Haldanum Successu temporum fratribus super regni ambitione inter se decertantibus, Haldan, fratre suo interempto, regni monarchiam obtinuit Hic filium, scilicet Helghi, regni procreauit hæredem, qui ob eximiam uirtutum strenuitatem, pyratīcam semper exercuit Qui cum uniuersorum circumiacentium regnorum fines maritimos classe pyratīca depopulatus, suo subiugasset imperio, "Rex maris" est cognominatus Huic in regno successit filius Rolf Krakī, patria uirtute pollens, occisus in Lethra, quæ tunc famosissima Regis extitit curia, nunc autem Roskildensi uicina ciuitati, inter abiectissima ferme uix colitur oppida Post quem regnauit filius eius Rokil cognomento dictus "Slaghenback" Cui successit in regno hæres, agilitatis strenuitate cognominatus, quem nostro uulgari "Frothi hin Froknī" nominabant. Huius filius et hæres regni extitit Wermundus, qui adeo prudentiæ pollebat uirtute, ut inde nomen consequeretur Unde et "Prudens" dictus est Hic filium genuit Uffi nomine, qui usque ad tricesimum ætatis suæ annum fandi possibilitatem cohibuit, propter enormitatem opprobrii, quod tunc temporis Danis ingruerat, eo quod in



ultionem patris duo Dani in Sueciam profecti, patricidam suum una interemerunt. Nam et tunc temporis ignominiosum extitit improprium, si solum duo iugularent, præsertim cum soli strenuitati tunc superstitiona gentilitas operam satagebat impendere. Præfatus itaque Wermundus usque ad senium regni sui gubernabat imperium, adeo tandem ætate consumptus, ut oculi eius præ senio caligarent. Cuius debilitatis fama cum apud transalpinas<sup>1</sup> partes percrebuisset, elationis turgiditate Teotonicâ intumuit superbia, utpote suis nunquam contenta terminis. Hinc furoris sui rabiem in Danos exacuit Imperator, se iam Danorum regno conquisito sceptrum nancisci augustius conspicatus. Delegantur itaque spiculatores, qui turgidi principis iussa reportent præfato Danorum regi, scilicet Wermundo, duarum rerum præfigentes electionem, quarum pars tamen neutra extitit eligenda. Aut enim regnum iussit Romano resignare imperio, et tributum soluere, aut athletam inuestigare, qui cum Imperatoris campione monomachiam committere auderet. Quo audito, regis extitit mens consternata, totiusque regni procerum legione corrogata, quid facto opus sit, diligenti inquisitione percontabatur. Perplexam se namque regis autumabat autoritas, utpote cui et ius incumbebat decertandi, et qui regno patrocinarî tenebatur. Uultum cæcitas obnubilauerat, et regni heres elinguis factus, desidîa torpuerat, ita ut in eo, communi assertione, nulla prorsus species salutis existeret. Nam ab infantia præfatus Uffo ventris indulgebat ingluviæ, et Epicuræorum more, coquinæ et cellario alternum officiose impendebat obsequium. Corrogato itaque cœtu procerum, totiusque regni placito<sup>2</sup> celebrato, Alamannorum regis ambitionem explicuit, quid in hac optione haud eligenda facturus sit, indagatione cumulata senior sciscitatur. Et dum uniuersorum mens consternaretur angustia, cunctique indulgerent silentio, præfatus Uffo in media concione surrexit. Quem cum cohors uniuersa conspexisset, satis nequibat admirari, ut quid elinguis uelut orationi gestus informaret. Et quia omne rarum dignum nouimus admiratione, omnium in se duxit intuitum. Tandem sic orsus cœpit: "Non nos minæ moueant lacescentium, cum

<sup>1</sup> A scribal error for *transalpinas*, "beyond the Elbe."

<sup>2</sup> Assembly

“*ea Teotonicæ turgiditati innata sit conditio, ut uerborum  
“ampullositate glorientur, minarumque uentositate pusill-  
“animes et imbecilles calleant comminatione consternare.  
“Me etenim unicum et uerum regni natura produxit heredem,  
“cui profecto nouistis incumbere, ut monomachiæ me discrimini  
‘audacter obuiam, quatenus uel pro regno solus occumbam,  
‘uel pro patria solus uictoriam obtineam. Ut ergo minarum  
‘cassetur ampullositas, hæc Imperatori referant mandata, ut  
“Imperatoris filius et heres imperii, cum athleta præstantissimo,  
“mihî soli non formidet occurrere”* Dixit, et hæc uerba  
dictauit uoce superba Qui dum orationem complexset, a  
collateralibus senior sciscitabatur, cuiusnam hæc fuisset oratio?  
Cum autem a circumstantibus intellexisset, quod filius suus,  
prius uelutî mutus, hunc effudisset sermonem, palpandum  
eum iussit accersiri Et cum humeros lacertosque, et clunes,  
suras atque tibias, cæteraque membra organica crebro palpasset  
“Talem,” ait, “me meminî in flore extitisse iuuentutis” Quid  
multa? Terminus pugnæ constituitur et locus Talique res-  
ponso percepto, ad propria legati repedabant.

## CAP II.

## De duello Uffonis.

Superest ergo, ut arma nouo militi congrua corrogentur.  
Allatisque ensibus, quos in regno præstantiores rex poterat  
inuestigare, Uffo singulos dextra uibrans, in partes confregit  
minutissimas “Hæccine arma sunt,” inquit, “quibus et  
uitam et regni tuebor honorem?” Cuius cum pater uiuidam ex-  
periretur uirtutem, “Unicum adhuc,” ait, “et regni et uitæ nos-  
træ superest asyllum” Ad tumultum itaque ducatum postulauit,  
in quo prius mucronem experientissimum occultauerat. Et  
mox intersignus per petrarum notas edoctus, gladium iussit  
effodi præstantissimum. Quem illico dextra corripiens, “Hic  
est,” ait, “fili, quo numerose triumphauî, et qui mihî infallibile  
semper tutamen extitit” Et hæc dicens, eundem filio contra-  
didit. Nec mora, terminus ecce congressioni præfixus arctius

instabat. Tandem, confluentibus undique phalangis innumeralibus, in Egdoræ fluminis mediamne<sup>1</sup> locus pugne constituitur: ut ita pugnatōres ab utriusque cœtus adminiculo segregati nullius opitulatione fungerentur. Teotonicis ergo ultra fluminis ripam in Holsatia consistētib⁹, Danis uero citra amnem dispositis, rex pontis in medio sedem elegit, quatenus, si unigenitus occumberet, in fluminis se gurgitem præcipitaret, ne pariter nato orbat⁹ et regno cum dolore superstes canos deduceret ad inferos. Deinde emissis utrinque pugilib⁹, in medio amne conuenerunt. Ast ubi miles noster egregius Uffo, duos sibi conspexit occurrere, tanquam leo pectore robusto infremuit, animoque constanti duob⁹ electis audacter se opponere non detrectauit, illo cinctus mucrone, quem patrem supra meminimus oculuisse, et alterum dextra strictum gestans. Quos cum primū obuios habuisset, sic singillatim utrumque alloquitur, et quod raro legitur accidisse, athleta noster elegantissimus, cuius memoria in æternum non delebitur, ita aduersarios animabat ad pugnam. “Si te,” inquit, “regni nostri stimulat ambitio, ut nostræ opis, potentiæque, opumque capessere uelis opulentias, comminus te clientem decet præcedere, ut et regni tui terminos amplifices, et militibus tuis conspicientibus, strenuitatis nomen nanciscaris.” Championem uero hunc in modum alloquitur. “Uirtutis tuæ experientiam jam locus est propagare, si comminus accesseris, et eam, quam pridem Alamannis gloriam ostendisti, Danis quoque propalare non cuncteris. Nunc ergo famam tuæ strenuitatis poteris ampliare, et egregæ munificentiae dono ditari, si et dominum præcedas, et clypeo defensionis eum tuearis. Studeat, quæso, Teotonicis experta strenuitas variis artis pugillatoris modis Danos instruere, ut tandem optata potitus uictoria, cum triumphu ualeas exultatione ad propria remeare.” Quam quum complisset exhortationem, pugilis cassidem toto percussit conamine, ita ut, quo feriebat, gladius in duo dissiliet. Cuius fragor per uniuersum intonuit exercitum. Unde cohors Teotonicorum exultatione perstrepebat sed contra Dani desperationis consternati tristitia, gemebundi murmurabant. Rex uero, ut audiuit, quod filii ensis dissiliisset, in margine se pontis iussit

<sup>1</sup> Island.

locari Uerum Uffo, subito exempto, quo cinctus erat, gladio, pugilis illico coxam cruentauit, nec mora, et caput pariter amputauit. Sic ergo ludus fortunæ ad instar lunæ uarius, nunc his, nunc illis successibus illudebat, et quibus iamiam exultatione fauebat ingenti, eos nouercali mox uultu, toruoque conspexit intuitu Hoc cognito, senior jam confidentius priori se iussit sede locari Nec jam anceps diu extitit uictoria Siquidem Uffo ualide instans, ad ripam amnis pepulit hæredem imperii, ibique eum haud difficulter gladio iugulauit Sicque duorum solus uictor existens, Danis irrogatam multis retro temporibus infamiam gloriosa uirtute magnifice satis aboleuit Atque ita Alamannis cum impropere uerecundia, cassatisque minarum ampullositatibus, cum probris ad propria remeantibus, postmodum in pacis tranquillitate præclius Uffo regni sui regebat imperium

## M NOTE ON THE DANISH CHRONICLES

The text of Saxo Grammaticus, given above, is based upon the magnificent first edition printed by Badius Ascensus (Paris, 1514) Even at the time when this edition was printed, manuscripts of Saxo had become exceedingly scarce, and we have now only odd leaves of ms remaining One fragment, however, discovered at Angers, and now in the Royal Library at Copenhagen, comes from a ms which had apparently received additions from Saxo himself, and therefore affords evidence as to his spelling

Holder's edition (Strassburg, 1886) whilst following in the main the 1514 text of Badius Ascensus, is accordingly revised to comply with the spelling of the Copenhagen fragments, and with any other traces of ms authority extant I doubt the necessity for such revision. If the text were extant in ms, one might feel bound to follow the spelling of the ms, as in the case of the old English mss of the *Vitae Offarum* below but seeing that Saxo, with the exception of a few pages, is extant only in a 16th century printed copy, the spelling of which is almost identical with that now current in Latin text books, it seems a pity to restore conjecturally mediæval spellings likely

to worry a student. Accordingly I have followed the printed text of 1514, modernizing a very few odd spellings, and correcting some obvious printers errors<sup>1</sup>.

A translation of the first nine books of Saxo by Prof O Elton has been published by the Folk-Lore Society (No. xxxiii, 1893).

Saxo completed his history in the early years of the 13th century. His elder contemporary, Sweyn Aageson, had already written a *Brief History of the Kings of Denmark* Sweyn's *History* must have been completed not long after 1185, to which date belongs the last event he records. The extracts given from it (pp 211-15) are taken from Langebek's collection, with modifications of spelling. Langebek follows the first edition (Stephanus, 1642), the ms used in this edition had been destroyed in 1728. *Cod Arn Mag* 33, recently printed by Gertz, although very corrupt, is supposed to give the text of Sweyn's *History* in a form less sophisticated than that of the received text (see Gertz, *Scriptores Minores Historiæ Danicæ*, 1917, p 62). The *Little Chronicle of the Kings of Leire* is probably earlier than Sweyn's *History*. Gertz dates it c. 1170, and thinks it was written by someone connected with the church at Roskilde. It covers only the early traditional history. See above, pp 17, 204.

For comparison, the following lists, as given in the roll of kings known as *Langfeðgatal*, in the *Little Chronicle*, in Sweyn, and in Saxo may be useful

<i>Langfeðgatal</i>	<i>Little Chronicle</i> Dan	<i>Sweyn</i>	<i>Saxo</i> Dan { Humblus { Lotherus	Names as given in <i>Beowulf</i> ° = Heremod
Skioldr.		Skiold	Skioldus	Seyld

<sup>1</sup> I have substituted *u* for *v*, and have abandoned spellings like *theutones*, *thezauro*, *orrifico*, *charitas*, *phas* (for *fas*), *allethas*, *choercust*, *iocundum*, *charum*, *felicitissima*, *nanque*, *hæreditariu* *ezoluere*

The actual reading of the 1514 text is abandoned by substituting p 130, l 3 *ingeniti* for *ingenitis* (1514), p 132, l 22, *iacentis* for *iacentis*, p 134, l 2, *diutina* for *diutue*, p 136, l 11, *fudit* for *fugit*, p 136, l 20, *ut* for *aut*, p 137, l 8, *ammirations* for *ammirations*, p 137, l 16, *offert* for *affert*, p 137, l 17, *Roluons* for *Rouolns*, p 137, l 27, *ministero* for *ministro*, p 137, l 33 *diuturnus* for *diuturnus*, p 206, l 22, *diutinam* for *diutina*, p 207, l 3, *et* for *etque*, p 207, l 5, *destituat* for *deficiat*, p 209, l 2, *latere* for *latera*, p 209, l 5, *conscioci* for *conscioci*, p. 209, l 14, *defoderat* for *defodera*

<i>Langfædgatal</i>	<i>Little Chronicle</i>	<i>Sweyn</i>	<i>Saxo Gram</i>	Names as given in <i>Beowulf</i>
			Hadingus	
		{Frothi	Frotho I	? = Beowulf I
Halldan		{Haldanus	{Haldanus I	Healfdene
	Rð		{Roe I	
			{Scato	
{Hroar	{Haldan		{Roe II	Hrothgar
{Helgi	{Helgi	Helghi	{Helgo	Halga
Rolf Kraki	Rolf Krake	Rolf Kraki	Roluo Krage	Hrothulf
	Hjarwarth		Hjarthuarus	Heorowearð
			. . .	
Hrærekr		Rðkil	Ræricus	Hrethric

N. THE LIFE OF OFFA I, WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE LIFE OF OFFA II. EDITED FROM TWO MSS IN THE COTTONIAN COLLECTION

The text is given from *MS Cotton Nero D I* (quoted in the footnotes as A), collated with *MS Claudius E IV* (quoted as B). Minor variations of B are not usually noted. The two MSS agree closely.

The *Nero* MS is the more elaborate of the two, and is adorned with very fine drawings. *Claudius*, however, offers occasionally a better text; it has been read by a corrector whose alterations—contrary to what is so often the case in mediæval MSS—seem to be authoritative.

The *Lives of the Offas* were printed by Wats in his edition of Matthew Paris (1639–40) from MS A. Miss Rickert has printed extracts from the two lives, in *Mod Phil* II, 14 *etc*, following MS A, “as Wats sometimes takes liberties with the text.”

INCIPIIT HISTORIA DE OFFA PRIMO QUI STRENUITATE SUA  
SIBI ANGLIE MAXIMAM PARTEM SUBEGIT CUI SIMILLI-  
MUS FUIT SECUNDUS OFFA<sup>1</sup>.

Inter occidentaliū Anglorum reges illustrissimos, precipua commendacionis laude celebratur Rex Warmundus, ab his qui historias Anglorum non solum relatu proferre, set eciam scriptis inserere consueuerant. Is fundator erat cuiusdam urbis a seipso denominate, que lingua Anglica Warwic, id est curia Warmundi, nuncupatur. Qui usque ad annos seniles absque liberis extitit, preter unicum filium, quem, ut estimabat, regni sui heredem et successorem puerilis debilitatis incomodo laborantem, constituere non ualebat. Licet enim idem unicus filius eius, Offa uel Offanus nomine, statura fuisset procerus,

<sup>1</sup> Above this heading B has *Gesta Offe Regis merciorum*

corpore integer, *et elegantissime forme iuuenis existeret*, permansit tamen a natiuitate usu priuatus usque ad annum septimum, mutus autem *et uerba humana non proferens usque ad annum etatis sue tricesimum* Huius debilitatis incomodum non solum rex, *sed* etiam regni proceres, supra quam dici potest moleste sustinuerunt Cum enim immineret patri etas senilis, *et* ignoraret diem mortis sue, nesciebat quem alium sibi<sup>1</sup> constitueret heredem *et* regni successorem Quidam autem primarius regni, cui nomen Riganus<sup>2</sup>, cum quodam suo complice Mitunno nomine, ambiciosus cum ambicioso, seductor cum proditore uidens regem decrepitum, *et* sine spe prolis procreande senio fatiscentem, de se presumens, cepit ad regie dignitatis culmen aspirare, contemptis aliis regni primatibus, se solum *pre ceteris* ad hoc dignum reputando

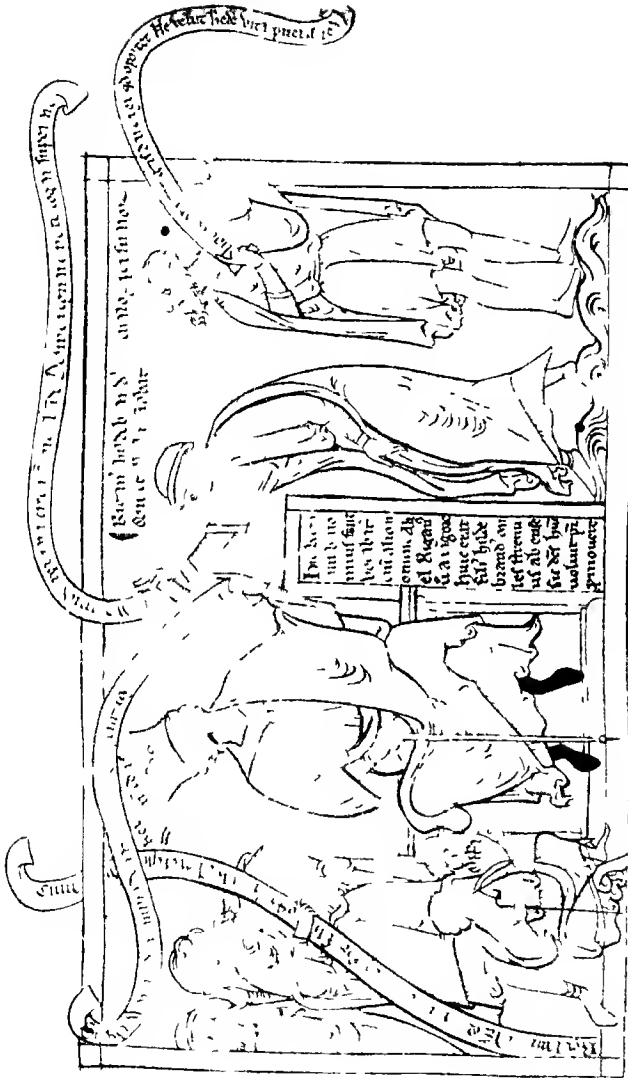
Iccirco diebus singulis regi molestus nimis, proterue eum aggreditur, ut se heredis loco adoptaret Aliquando cor regis blande alliciens, interim aspere minis *et* terroribus prouocans, persuadere non cessat regi quod optabat<sup>3</sup> Suggerebat etiam regi per uiros potentes, complices cupiditatis *et* malicie sue, se regni sui summum apicem, uiolentia *et* terroribus *et* ui extorquere, nisi arbitrio uoluntatis sue rex ipse pareret, faciendo uirtutem de necessitate Super hoc itaque *et* aliis regni negocis, euocato semel concilio, proteruius ille a rege reprobatus discessit a curie presentia, iracundie calore fremens in semetipso, pro repulsa quam sustinuit

Nec mora, accitis multis qui contra regis imperium partem suam confouebant, infra paucos dies, copiosum immo infinitum exercitum congregauit *et* sub spe uictorie uiriliter optinende, regem *et* suos ad hostile prehum prouocauit Rex autem confectus senio, timens rebellare, declinauit aliquociens impetus aduersariorum Tandem uero, conuocatis in unum principibus *et* magnatibus suis, deliberare cepit quo facto opus haberet Dum igitur tractarent in commune per aliquot dies, secum deliberantes instantissime necessitatis articulum, affuit inter

<sup>1</sup> A repeats sibi after constitueret

<sup>2</sup> Hic Riganus binomin[us] fuit Vocabatur enim alio nomine Ahel Riganus uero a rigore Huic erat filius Hildebrandus, miles strenuus, ab ense sic dictus Hunc uoluit pater promouere Contemporary rubric in A, inserted in the middle of the sketch representing Riganus demanding the kingdom from Warmundus

<sup>3</sup> optat, B



RIGANUS (OR ALLIL) COMES BEFORE KING WARWINDUS TO CLAIM THAT HI  
SHOULD BE MADE KING IN PLACE OF THE INCOMPETENT OFFA

from MS Cotton Nero D I fol 2a





Fol. 2b *sermocinantes natus et unigenitus regis, eo usque elinguis et absque sermone, sed aure purgata, singulorum uerba discernens Cum autem patris senium, et se ipsum ad regni negocia quasi inutilem et minus efficacem despici et reprobari ab omnibus perpenderet, contritus est et humiliatus in semetipso, usque in lacrimarum aduberem profusionem. Et exitus aquarum deduxerunt oculi eius, et estuabat dolore cordis intrinsecus amarissimo. Et quam uerbis non poterat, deo affectu intrinseco precordialiter suggerebat, ingemiscens, reponensque lacrimabilem querelam coram ipso, orabat ut a spiritu sancto reciperet consolacionem, a patre luminum fortitudinem, et a filio patris unigenito sapientie salutaris donatum. In breui igitur, contriti cordis uota prospiciens, is, cui nuda et aperta sunt omnia, resoluit os adolescentis in uerba discreta et manifeste articulata. Sicque de regni principatu tumide et minaciter contra se et patrem suum perstreptentes, subito et ex insperato alloquitur. "Quid adhuc me et patre meo superstite contra leges et iura "uobis uendicatis regni iudicium enormiter contractare et me "excluso, herede geneali, alium degenerem facinorosum etiam "in minas et diffiduciacionem superbe nimis prorumpentem, "subrogare ut uos non immerito iniquitatis et prodicionis arguere "ualeamus. Quid, inquam, exteri, quid extranei contra nos "agere debeant, cum nos affines et domestici nostri a patria quam "hactenus generis nostri successio iure possedit hereditario, "uelitis expellere?" Et dum hec Offanus uel Offa (hoc enim nomen adolescentulo erat) qui iam nunc primo eterno nomine cum bened[i]c[t]onis memoria meruit intitulari, ore facundo, sermone rethorico, uultu sereno prosequeretur, omnium audientium plus quam dici potest attonitorum oculos facies et corda in se conuertit. Et prosequens inceptum sermonem, continuando rationem, ait (intuens ad superna) "Deum testor, omnesque "celestis curie primates, quod tanti sceleris et discidi incentores, "(nisi qui ceperint titubare, uiriliter erigantur in uirtutem "pristinam roborati) indempnes (pro ut desides et formidolosi "promeruerunt) ac impunitos, non paciar. Fideles autem, ac "strenuos, omni honore prosequar [et] confouebo."*

Audito igitur adolescentis sermone, quem mutum estimabant vanum et inutilem, consternati admodum et conterriti, ab eius

presencia discesserunt, qui contra patrem suum et ipsum, mota sedicione, ausu temerario conspirauerant. Riganus tamen, contumax et superbus, comitante Mittunno cum aliis complicitibus suis, qui iam iram in odium conuerterant, minas minis recessit cumulando, regemque delirum cum filio suo inutili ac vano murione, frontose diffiduciauit. Econtra, naturales ac fideles regis, ipsius  
 Fol 3<sup>a</sup> minas paruipendentes, immo | ulpendentes, inestimabili gaudio perfusi, regis et filii sui pedibus incuruati, sua suorumque corpora ad uindicandam regis iniuriam exponunt, gratanter uniuersi. Nec mora, rex in sua et filii sui presentia generali edicto eos qui parti sue fauebant iubet assistere, uolens communi eorum consilio edoceri, qualiter in agendis suis procedere et negocia sua exequi habeat conuenienter. Qui super his diebus aliquot deliberantes, inprimis consulunt regi ut filium suum moribus et etate ad hoc maturum, militari cingulo faciat insigniri. ut ad bellum procedens, hostibus suis horroni fieret et formidini. Rex autem sano et salubri consilio suorum obtemperans, celebri<sup>1</sup> ad hoc conducto die, cum sollempni et regia pompa, gladio filium suum accinxit, adiunctis tirocinio suo strenuis adolescentibus generosis, quos rex ad decus et gloriam filii sui militaribus indui fecit, et honorari.

Cum autem post hec<sup>2</sup>, aliquandiu cum sociis suis decertans, instrumenta tiro Offanus experiretur, omnes eum strenuissimum et singulos superantem uehementer<sup>3</sup> admirabantur. Rex igitur inde maiorem assumens audaciam, et in spem erectus alacriorem, communicato cum suis consilio, contra hostes regni sui insidiatores, immo iam manifeste contra regnum suum insurgentes, et into certamine aduersantes, resumpto spiritu bellum instaurari precepit. Potentissimus autem ille, qui regnum sibi usurpare moliebatur, cum filiis suis iuuenibus duobus, uidelicet trionibus strenuissimis Otta et Mihone nominatis, ascita quoque non minima multitudine, nichilominus audacter ad rebellandum, se suosque premunire cepit, alacer et imperterritus. Et prehandi diem et locum, hinc inde rex et eius emulus determinarunt.

Congregato itaque utrobique copiosissimo et formidabili nimis exercitu, parati ad congressum, fixerunt tentoria e regione, nichilque intererat nisi fluuius torrens in medio, qui

<sup>1</sup> celebri, B, celibri, A<sup>2</sup> hoc, B<sup>3</sup> uehementer, A

utrumque exercitum sequestrabat Et aliquandiu hinc inde meticolosi et consternati, rapidi fluminis alueum interpositum (qui uix erat homini uel equo transmeabilis) transire distulerunt. Tela tamen sola, cum crebris comminacionibus et conuiciis, transuolarunt. Tandem indignatus Offa et egre ferens probrose more dispendia, electis de exercitu suo robustioribus et bello magis strenuis, quos etiam credebat fideiores, subitus et improusus flumen raptim pertransiens, facto impetu uehementi<sup>1</sup> et repentino, hostes ei obuam occurrentes, preoccupatos tamen circa ripam fluminis, plurimos de aduersariorum exercitu contriuit, et in ore gladii trucidauit Primosque omnes tribunos et primicerios potenter dissipauit. Cum tamen sui commilitones, forte uolentes prescire in Offa preuo Martis fortunam, segniter amnem transmearent, qui latus suum tenebantur suffulcire, Fol. 3 b et<sup>2</sup> pocius circumuallando roborare, et resumpto spiritu uiuidiore, reliquos omnes, hinc inde ad modum naui uelificantis et equora uelociter sulcantis, impetuosisime diuisit, ense terribiliter fulminante, et hostium cruore sepius inebriato, donec sue omnes acies ad ipsum illese et indempnes transmearent Quo cum peruenirent sui commilitones, congregati circa ipsum dominum suum, exercitum magnum et fortem conflauerunt Duces autem contrarii exercitus, sese densis agminibus et consertis aciebus, uolenter opponunt aduentantibus. Et congressu into cruentissimo, acclamatum est utrobique et exhortatum, ut res agatur pro capite, et certamen pro sua et uxorū suarū, et liberorum suorum, et possessionum liberacione, ineanit iustissimum, auxilio diuino protegente. Perstrepunt igitur tube cum lituis, clamor exhortantium, equorum hinnitus, morientium et uulneratorum gemitus, fragor lancearum, gladiorum tinnitus, ictuum tumultus, aera perturbare udebantur. Aduersarii tandem Offe legiones deiciunt, et in fugam dissipatas conuertunt.

Quod cum videret Offa strenuissimus, et ex hostium cede cruentus, hausto spiritu alacriori, in hostes, more leonis et leene sublati catulis, irrunt truculenter, gladium suum cruore hostili inebriando Quod cum uiderent trucidandi, fugitui et meticolosi pudore confusi, reuersi sunt super hostes, et ut famam redimerent, ferociore in obstantes fulminant et debacantur.

<sup>1</sup> uehementi, A.

<sup>2</sup> etiam, B.

*Multoque tempore truculenter nimis decertatum est, et utrobique suspensa est uictoria, tandem post multorum ruinam, hostes fatigati pedem retulerunt, ut respirarent et pausarent post conflictum*

*Similiter etiam et exercitus Offani Quod tamen moleste nimis tuht Offanus, cuius sanguis in ulcionem estuabat, et indefessus propugnator cessare erubescibat Hic casu Offe obuiant duo filii diutis illius, qui regnum patris eius sibi attemptauit usurpare. Nomen primogenito Brutus [sive Hildebrandus]<sup>1</sup> et iuniori Sueno Hi probra et uerba turpia in Offam irreuerenter ingesserunt, et iuueni pudorato in conspectu exercituum, non minus sermonibus quam armis, molesti extiterunt. Offa igitur, magis lacessitus, et calore audacie scintillans, et iracundia usque ad fremitum succensus, in impetu spiritus sui in eosdem audacter irruit Et eorum alterum, uidelicet Brutum, unico gladii ictu percussit, amputatoque galee cono, craneum usque ad cerebri medullam perforauit, et in morte singultantem sub equinis pedibus potenter precipitauit Alterum uero, qui hoc uiso fugam inuit, repentinus insequens, uulnere letali sauciatum, contempsit et prostratum Post hec<sup>2</sup> deseuiens in ceteros contrarii exercitus duces, gladius Offe quicquid obuiam habuit prosterendo deuorauit, exercitu ipsius tali exemplo recencius in hostes insurgente, et iam gloriosius triumphante*

*Pater, uero, predictorum iuuenum, perterritus et dolore intrinseco sauciat, subterfugiens amnem oppositum, nitebatur*  
 Fol 4a *pertransire sed interfectorum sanguine torrens fluuius, eum loricatum et armorum pondere grauatum et multipliciter fatigatum, cum multis de suo exercitu simili incomodo prepeditis, ad ima submersit, et sine uulneribus, miseris animas exalarunt proditores, toti posteritati sue probra relinquentes Amnis autem a Rigano ibi submerso sorciebatur uocabulum, et Riganburne, ut facti uiuat perpetuo memoria, nuncupatur. [Hic alio nomine Auene dicitur ]<sup>3</sup>*

*Reliqui autem omnes de exercitu Rigani [qui et Ahel dicebatur]<sup>3</sup> qui sub ducatu Mitunni regebantur, in abissum desperationis demersi, et timore effeminati, cum eorum duce in quo*

<sup>1</sup> Added in margin in A, not in B

<sup>2</sup> hec omitted, B

<sup>3</sup> Added in margin in A, not in B.

magis Riganus confidebat, in noctis crepusculo trucidati, cum uictoria gloriosa campum Offe strenuissimo (in nulla parte corporis sui deformiter mutilato, nec *eciam* uel letaliter uel periculose uulnerato, licet ea die multis se letiferis opposuisset periculis) reliquerunt<sup>1</sup>

Sicque Offe circa iuuentutis sue primicias, a Domino data est uictoria in bello nimis ancipiti, ac cruentissimo, *et* inter alienigenas uirtutis *et* industrie sue nomen celebre ipsius uentilatum, *et* odor longe lateque bonitatis ac ciuitatis, nec non *et* strenuitatis eius circumfusus, nomen eius ad sidera subleuauit

Porro in crastinum post uictoriam, hostium spolia interfectorum *et* fugitiuorum magnifice contempnens, nec sibi uolens aliquatenus usurpare, ne quomodolibet auaricie turpiter redargueretur, militibus suis stipendiarius, *et* naturalibus suis hominibus (precipue<sup>2</sup> his quos nouerat indigere) liberaliter dereliquit. Solos tamen magnates, quos ipsemet in prelio ceperat, sibi retinuit incarcerationis, redimendos, uel iudicialiter puniendos. Iussitque ut interfectorum duces *et* principes, quorum fama titulos magnificauit, *et* precipue eorum qui in prelio magnifice ac fideliter se habuerant (licet ei<sup>3</sup> aduersarentur) seorsum honorifice intumulerentur, factis eis obsequiis, cum lamentacionibus. Exercitus autem popularis cadauera, in arduo *et* eminenti loco, ad posteritatis memoriam, tradi iussit sepulture ignobiliori. Vnde locus ille hoc nomine Anglico Qualmhul<sup>4</sup>, a strage uide licet *et* sepultura interfectorum merito meruit intulari

Multorum *eciam* *et* magnorum lapidum super eos struem exercitus Offe. uoce preconia iussus, congegisset eminentem. Totaque circumiacens planities<sup>5</sup> ab ipso cruentissimo certamine *et* notabili sepultura nomen *et* titulum indelebilem est sortita, *et* Blodiweld<sup>6</sup> a sanguine interfectorum denominabatur.

Deletis igitur *et* confusis hostibus, Offa cum ingenti triumpho ac tripudio *et* gloria reuertitur ad propria. Pater uero War-mundus, qui sese receperat in locis tucioribus rei euentum expectans, sed iam fausto nuncio certificatus, comperiensque *et* securus de carissimis filiis sui uictoria, cum ingenti leticia ei

<sup>1</sup> dereliquerunt, B •

<sup>2</sup> precipue omitted, B

<sup>3</sup> ei omitted, B

<sup>4</sup> Qualmhul *vel* Qualmweld in margin, A

<sup>5</sup> planies, A. planicies, perhaps corrected from planies, B

<sup>6</sup> blodifield, B.

procedit obuius<sup>1</sup>: et in amplexus eius diutissime *commoratus*,  
 Fol. 4b *conceptum* | interius de filii sui palma gaudium *tegere* non uolens  
 set nec ualens, huius cum lacrimis exultacionis prorupit in  
 vocem. "Euge fili dulcissime, quo affectu, quauē mentis  
 "leticia, laudes tuas prout dignum est *prosequar*<sup>2</sup> Tu enim es  
 "spes mea *et* subditorum iubilus ex *insperato et* exultacio In  
 "te spes inopinata meis reuixit temporibus, in sinu tuo leticia  
 "mea, immo spes potius totius regni est reposita Tu populi  
 "totius firmanentum, tu pacis *et* libertatis mee basis *et* stabile,  
 "deo aspirante, fundamentum Tibi debetur<sup>3</sup> ruina proterui  
 "proditoris illius, quondam publici hostis nostri, qui regni  
 "fastigium quod *mihi et* de genere meo propagatis iure debetur  
 "hereditario, tam impudenter quam imprudenter, contra leges  
 "et ius gentium usurpare molebatur. *Sed* uultus domini super  
 "eum *et* complices suos facientes mala, ut perderet de terra  
 "memoriam eorum, Deus ulcionum Dominus dissipauit con-  
 "silium ipsius Ipsum quoque Riganum in superbia rigentem,  
 "et immitem Mitunnum commiltonem ipsius, cum exercitu  
 "eorum proiecit in flumen rapacissimum Descendunt quasi  
 "plumbum in aquis uehementibus, deuorauit gladius tuus  
 "hostes nostros fulminans *et* cruentatus, hostili sanguine magni-  
 "fice inebriatus, non degener es fili mi genealis, *sed* patrisans,  
 "patrum tuorum uestigia sequeris magnificorum. Sepultus in  
 "inferno noster hostis *et* aduersarius, fructus viarum suarum  
 "condignos iam colligit, quos uiuus promerebatur Luctum  
 "et miseriam quam senectuti mee malignus ille inferre dis-  
 "posuerat, uersa uice, clementia diuina conuertit in tripudium<sup>2</sup>.  
 "Quamobrem in presenti accipe, quod tuis meritis exigentibus  
 "debetur, eciam si filius meus non esses, *et* si *mihi* iure heredi-  
 "tario non succederes, ecce iam, cedo, *et* regnum Anglorum  
 "uoluntatis tue arbitrio deinceps committo, etas enim mea  
 "fragilis *et* iam decrepita, regni ceptrum ulterius sustinere non  
 "sufficit Iccirco te fili desideratissime, uicem meam supplere  
 "te conuenit, *et* corpus meum senio confectum, donec morientis  
 "oculos claueris, quieti tradere liberiori, ut a curis *et* secularibus  
 "solicitudinibus, quibus discerpor liberatus, precibus uacem *et*  
 "contemplacioni. Armis hucusque maternalibus dimicauī. restat

<sup>1</sup> Gloria triumphī, in margin, A.<sup>2</sup> tripudium, B, tripudium, A.

"ut de cetero uita mea que superest, militia sit super terram  
"contra hostes spirituales.

"Ego uero pro incolumitate tua et regni statu, quod stren-  
"uitati tue, O anime mee dimidium, iam commisi, preces quales  
"mea sci[t]<sup>1</sup> simplicitas et potest imbecillitas, Deo fundam  
"indefessas. Sed quia tempus perbreue amodo mihi restat,  
"et corpori meo solum superest sepulchrum, aurem benignam  
"meis accomoda salutaribus consiliis, et cor credulum meis  
"monitis inclina magnificis. Uerum ipsos qui nobiscum contra  
1 5a "hostes publicos, Riganum uidelicet et Mitunnum | et eorum  
"complices emulos nostros fideliter steterunt, et periculoso dis-  
"crimini pro nobis se opposuerunt, paterno amore tibi commendo,  
"diligendos, honorandos, promouendos. Eos autem qui decre-  
"pite senectutis mee membra<sup>2</sup> debilia contemptui habere ausi  
"sunt, asserentes uerba mea et regalia precepta esse semilia  
"deliramenta, presumentes temere apice regali me priuato te  
"exheredare, suspectos habere et contemptibiles, si qui sint elapsi  
"ab hoc bello, et a tuo gladio deuorante, etiam cum eorum  
"posteritate ne cum in ramusculos uirus pullulet, a radice  
"aliquid consimile tibi generetur in posterum. Non enim recolo  
"me talem eorum promeruisse, qui me et te filium meum gratis  
"oderunt, persecucionem. Similiter eos, quos dicti proditores  
"pro eo quod nobis fideliter adheserant, exulare coegerunt, uel  
"qui impotentes rabiem eorum fugiendo resistere, ad horam  
"declinauerunt, cum omni mansuetudine studeas reuocare,  
"et honores eorum cum possessionibus ex innata tibi regali  
"munificentia, graciosius ampliare. Laus industrie tue et fame  
"preconia, et strenuitatis tue titulus, que adolescenciam tuam  
"diuinitus illustrarunt, in posterum de te maiora promittunt.  
"Desideranti animo sicienter affecto, ipsumque Deum, qui te  
"tibi, sua mera gracia reddidit et restaurauit, deprecor affectuose,  
"ut has iuuentutis tue primicias, hoc inopinato triumpho subar-  
"ratas, melior semper ac splendidior operum gloria subsequatur.  
"Et procul dubio post mortem meam (que non longe abest,  
"iubente Domino) fame tue magnitudo per orbem uniuersum  
"dilatabitur, et felix suscipiet incrementum. Et que Deo placita  
"sunt, opere felix consumabis, que diuinitus prosperabuntur."

<sup>1</sup> scis, A, B.

<sup>2</sup> membra, A.



Hec autem filius deuotus et mansuetus, licet magnificus triumphator exaudisset et intenta aure intellexisset, flexis genibus et iunctis manibus, et exundantibus oculis, patri suo grates<sup>1</sup> rettulit accumulatas. Rex itaque per fines Anglie missis nunciis expeditissimis, qui mandata regia detulerunt, tocius dicionis sue conuocat nobilitatem. Que conuocata ex regis precepto, et persuasione, Offano filio suo unigenito ligiam fecerunt fidelitatem et homagium in patris presencia. Quod et omnes, animo uolenti, immo gaudenti, communiter perfecerunt.

Rex igitur quem potius prona voluntas, quam uigor prouexit corporalis, per climata regni sui proficiscitur securus et letabundus, nullo contradicente, uel impediante, ut regni municiones et varias possessiones, diu per inimicos suos alienatas et iniuste ac uolenter possessas, ad sue dicionis reaciperet iure potestatem. Que omnia sibi sunt sine difficultate uel more dispendio restituta. Statimque pater filium eorum possessionibus corporaliter inuestiuit, et paterno contulit affectu ac gratuito, proceribus  
 Fol 5b congauden|tibus super hoc uniuersis. Post hec autem, Rex filio suo Offano erarium suum adaperiens, aurum suum et argentum, uasa concupiscibilia, gemmas, oloserica omnia, sue subdidit potestati. Sicque subactis et subtractis hostibus<sup>2</sup> cunctis, aliquandiu per uniuersum regnum uiguit pax et securitas diu desiderabilis.

Rex igitur filii sui prosperitate gausus, qui etiam diatim de bono in melius gradatim ascendit, aliquo tempore uite sue metas distulit naturales. iubilus quoque in corde senis conceptus languores seniles plurimum mitigauit. Tandem Rex plenus dierum, cum benedictione omnium, qui ipsum etiam a remotis<sup>3</sup> partibus per famam cognouerunt<sup>4</sup>, nature debita persoluens decessit. Et decedens, filio suo apicem regni sui pacatum et quietum reliquit. Offanus autem oculos patris sui pie claudens, lamentaciones mensurnas cum magnis euulatibus, lacrimis et specialibus planctibus (prout moris tunc erat principibus magnificis) lugubriter pro tanto funere continuauit. Obsequisque cum exequiis, magnifice tam in ecclesia quam in locis forinsecis completis, apparatu regio et loco celeberrimo et nominatissimo,

<sup>1</sup> gracias, B<sup>3</sup> remotis, A<sup>2</sup> hostibus, A<sup>4</sup> cognouerunt, A.

regibus condigno, videlicet in eminentiori ecclesia penes Glouerniam urbem egregiam, eidem exhiberi iubet sepulturam Offanus autem cum moribus omnibus foret redimitus, elegans corpore, armis strenuus, munificus et benignus, post obitum patris sui magnifici Warmundi<sup>1</sup>, cuius mores tractatus exigit speciales, plenarie omnium principum Regni dominum suscipit, et debitum cum omni deuotione, et mera uoluntate, famulatum Cum igitur cuiusdam solempnitatis arrideret serenitas, Offanus cum sollempni tripudio omnibus applaudentibus et faustum omen acclamantibus, Anglie diademate feliciter est insignitus

Adquiescens igitur seniorum consiliis et sapientum persuasionibus, cepit tocius regni irreprehensibiliter, immo laudabiliter, habenas<sup>2</sup> modernanter et sapienter gubernare Sic igitur, subactis hostibus regni uniuersis, uiguit pax secure et firmata in finibus Anglorum, per tempora longa; precipue tamen per spacium temporis quinquennale Erat autem iam triginta quatuor annos etatis attingens, annis prospere pubescentibus

Et cum Rex, more iuuenili, venatus gracia per nemora frequenter, cum suis ad hoc conuocatis uenatoribus et canibus sagacibus, expeditus peragrasset, contigit die quadam quod aere turbato, longe a suorum caterua semotus, solus per nemoris opaca penitus ipsorum locorum, necnon et fortune ignarus, casu deambulabat Dum autem sic per ignota diuerticula incaucius oberraret, et per inuia, uocem lacrimabilem et miserabiliter querulam haut longe a se audiuit Cuius sonitum secutus, Fol 6 a inter densos frutices | virginem singularis forme et regi apparatus, sed decore uenustissimam, ex insperato repperit Rex uero rei euentum admirans, que ibi ageret et querele causas, eam blande alloquens, cepit sciscitari Que ex imo pectoris flebilis trahens suspiria, regi respondit (nequaquam in auctorem sed in seipsam reatum retorquens) "Peccatis meis" inquit "exigentibus in-  
"fortunii huius calamitas mihi accidit" Erat autem reguli cuiusdam filia qui Eboracensibus preerat Huius incomparabilis pulchritudinis singularem eminentiam pater admirans, amatorio demone seductus, cepit eam incestu libidinoso concupiscere, et ad amorem illicitum sepe sollicitare ipsam puellam,

<sup>1</sup> Warmandi, A

<sup>2</sup> habenas repeated after regni above in A, but cancelled in B

minis, pollicitis, blanditiis, atque muneribus adolescentule temptans emollire constantiam. Illa autem operi nephario nullatenus adquiescens, cum pater tamen minas minis exaggeraret<sup>1</sup>, et promissa promissis accumularet, munera muneribus adaugeret, iuxta illud poeticum.

Imperium, promissa, preces, confudit in unum.

elegit magis incidere in manus hominum, et etiam ferarum qualiumcunque, vel gladii subire sententiam, quam Dei offensam incurere, pro tam graui culpa manifestam Pater itaque ipsam sibi parere constanter renuentem, euocatis quibusdam maligne mentis hominibus quos ad hoc elegerat, precepit eam in desertum solitudinis remote duci, uel potius trahi, et crudelissima morte condempnatam, bestis ibidem derelinqui Qui cum in locum horroris et vaste solitudinis peruissent, trahentes eam seductores illi, Deo ut creditur inspirante, miserti pulchritudinis<sup>2</sup> illius eam ibidem sine trucidacione et membrorum mutilacione, unam, sed tamen sine aliquorum uictualium alimento (exceptis talibus qui de radicibus et frondibus uel herbis colligi, urgente ultima fame, possunt) dimiserunt

Cum hac rex aliquandiu habens sermonem, comitem itineris sui illam habuit, donec solitari cuiusdam habitationem reperissent, ubi nocte superueniente quiescentes pernoctauerunt In crastinum autem solitarius ille uiarum et semitarum peritus, regem cum comite sua usque ad fines domesticos, et loca regi non ignota<sup>3</sup> conduxit Ad suos itaque rex rediens, desolate illius quam nuper inuenerat curam gerens, familiaribus et domesticis generis sui sub diligenti custodia commisit

Post hec aliquot annis elapsis, cum rex celibem agens uitam, mente castus et corpore perseueraret, proceres dicionis sue, non solum de tunc presenti, sed de futuro sibi periculo precauentes, et nimirum multum solliciti, dominum suum de uxore ducenda unanimiter conuenerunt ne sibi et regno successorem et heredem non habens, post obitum ipsius imminens periculum generaret. Etatis enim iuuenilis pubertas, morum maturitas, et ugens regni necessitas, necnon et honoris dignitas, itidem

Fol. 66 postularunt | Et cum super hoc negotio, sepius regem sollici-

<sup>1</sup> exaggeret, B.

<sup>2</sup> pulchritudinis, B, pulchritudini, A

<sup>3</sup> ignota, A

tarentur, et alloquerentur, ipse multociens ioculando, et talia uerba asserendo interludia fuisse uanitatis, procerum suorum constantiam dissimulando differendoque delusit Quod quidam aduertentes, communicato cum aliis consilio, regem ad nubendum incuntabiliter urgere ceperunt Rex uero more optimi principis, cuius primordia iam bene subarrauerat, nolens uoluntati magnatum suorum resistere, diu secum de thori socia, libra profunde rationis, studiose cepit deliberare Cumque hoc in mente sua sollicitius tractaret, uenit forte in mentem suam illius iuuenulæ memoria, quam dudum inter uenandum inuenit uagabundam, solam, feris et predonibus miserabiliter expositam quam ad tuciora ducens, familiaribus generis sui commiserat alendam, ac carius custodiendam Que, ut rex audiuit, moribus laudabiliter redimita, decoris existens expectabilis, omnibus sibi cognitis amabilem exhibuit et laudabilem, hec igitur sola, relictis multis, etiam regalis stematis sibi oblatis, complacuit; illamque solam in matrimonium sibi adoptauit

Cum autem eam duxisset in uxorem, non interueniente multa mora, elegantissime forme utriusque sexus liberos ex eadem procreauit Itaque cum prius esset rex propria seueritate subditis suis formidabilis, magnates eius, necnon et populus eius uniuersus, heredum et successorum apparentia animati, regni robur et leticiam geminarunt Rex quoque ab uniuersis suis, et non solum prope positis, immo alienigenis et remotis, extitit honori, ueneracioni, ac dileccioni Et cum inter se in Britannia, (que tunc temporis in plurima regna multiphariam diuisa fuisset) reguli sibi finitimi hostiliter se impeterent, solus Rex Offa pace regni sui potitus feliciter, se sibi que subditos in pace regebat et libertate Unde et adiacencium prouinciarum reges eius mendicabant auxilium, et in neccessitatis articulo, consilium

Rex itaque Northanhimbrorum, a barbara Scotorum gente, et etiam aliquibus suorum, grauius et usque ferme ad interneccionem percussus, et proprie defensionis auxilio destitutus, ad Offam regem potentem legatos destinat, et pacificum supplicans, ut presidii eius solacio contra hostes suos roboretur Tali mediante •condicione, ut Offe filiam sibi matrimonio copularet, et non se proprii regni, sed Offam, primum ac

principem preferret, et se cum suis omnibus ipsi subiugaret. Nichil itaque dotis cum Offe filia rogauit, hoc sane contentus premio, ut a regni sui finibus barbaros illos potenter et frequenter experta fugaret strenuitate

Fol. 7a Cum autem legatorum uerba rex Offa succeperat, consilio suorum fretus supplicantis uoluntati ac precibus adqueuit, si tamen rex ille pactum huiusmodi, tactis sacrosanctis euangelis<sup>1</sup>, et obsidum tradicionem, fidehiter tenendum confirmaret. Sic igitur Rex Offa, super his condicionibus sub certa forma confirmatus, et ad plenum certificatus, in parte illas cum equitum numerosa multitudine proficiscitur. Cum autem illuc peruenisset, timore eius consternata pars aduersa cessit, fuge presidio se saluando. Quam tamen rex Offa audacter persecutus, non prius destitit fugare fugientem, donec eam ex integro contriuisset, sed nec eo contentus, ulterius progreditur, barbaros expugnaturus. Interea ad patriam suam nuncium imperitum destinauit, ad primates et precipuos regni sui, quibus totius ditionis sue regimen commendauerat, et literas regni sigilli sui munimine consignatas<sup>2</sup>, eidem nuncio commisit, deferendas. Qui autem destinatus fuit, iter arripiens uersus Offe regnum, ut casu accidit inter eundem, hospitandi gracia aulam regiam introiit illius regis, cuius filiam Offa sibi matrimonio copulauerat. Rex autem ille, cum de statu et causa itineris sui subdole requirendo cognouisset, uultus sui serenitate animi uersuciam mentitus, specie tenus illum amantissime suscepit et uelamen sceleris sui querens, a conspectu publico sub quodam dilectionis pretexu, ad regni thalami secreta penetraha ipsum nuncium nichil sinistri suspicantem introduxit magnoque studio elaborauit, ut ipsum, uno estuanti madentem, redderet temulentum, et ipso nuncio uel dormiente uel aliquo alio modo ignorante, mandata domini sui regis Offe tacitus ac subdolis apertis et explicatis literis perscrutabatur, cepitque perniciose immutare et peruertere sub Offe nomine sigillum adulterans, fallacesque et perniciosas literas loco inuentarum occultaui. Forma autem adulterinarum [literarum]<sup>3</sup> hec est que subscribitur<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> euangelii, B

<sup>2</sup> from B, written over erasure

<sup>2</sup> consignatas, A

<sup>4</sup> scribitur, B

1 "Rex Offa, maioribus et precipuis regni sui, salutis et  
 "prospexitatis augmentum. Uniuersitati uestre notum facio, in  
 "itinere quod arripui infortunia et aduersa plurima tam michi  
 "quam subditis meis accidisse, et maiores exercitus mei, non  
 "ignauia propria, uel hostium oppugnantium uirtute, set potius  
 "peccatis nostris iusto Dei iudicio intuisse Ego autem instantis  
 "periculi causam pertractans, et consciencie mee intima per-  
 "scrutatus, in memetipso nichil aliud conicio altissimo displicere,  
 "nisi quod perditam et maleficam illam absque meorum consensu  
 "uxorem imperito et infelici duxi matrimonio. Ut ergo de  
 "malefica memorata, uoluntati uestre ad plenum quam temere  
 "offendi satisfiat, asportetur cum liberis ex ea genitis ad loca  
 Fol 76 "deserta, hominibus incognita<sup>2</sup>, | feris et aubus aut siluestribus  
 "predonibus frequentata. ubi cum pueris suis puerpera, trun-  
 "cata manus et pedes, exemplo pereat inaudito "

Nuncius autem mane facto, uno quo maduerat digesto, compos iam sui effectus, discessit: et post aliquot dies perueniens ad propria, magnatibus qui regno regis Offe preerant literas domini sui sigillo signatas exposuit In quarum auditu perlecta mandati serie, in stuporem et uehementissimam admiracionem uniuersi, plus quam dici possit, rapiuntur. Et super his, aliquot diebus communicato cum magnatibus consilio deliberantes, periculosum ducebant<sup>3</sup> mandatis ac iussionibus regis non obtemperare Misera igitur seducta, deducta est in remotissimum et inhabitabilem locum horronis et uaste solitudinis cum qua etiam liberi eius miseri et miserabiles queruli et uagientes, absque misericordia, ut cum ea traherentur occidendi, iudicium acceperunt

Nec mora, memorati apparitores matrem cum pignoribus suis in desertum uastissimum trahebant. Matri uero propter eius formam admirabilem parcentes, liberos eius, nec forme, nec sexui, etati uel condicioni parcentes, detruncarunt membratim, immo potius frustatim<sup>4</sup> crudeliter in bestialem feritatem seuentes Completaque tam crudeli sententia, cruenti apparitores oculus reuertuntur Nec mora, solitarius quidam uitam in omni sanctitate, uigiliis assiduus, ieiunus crebris, et continuus

<sup>1</sup> Epistola, in margin, A

<sup>3</sup> dicebant, B

<sup>2</sup> incognita, A

<sup>4</sup> frustatim, A, B

orationibus, ducens heremiticam, circa noctis crepusculum eo pertransiens, mulieris cuiusdam luctus lacrimabiles et querelas usque ad intima cordis et ossuum<sup>1</sup> medullas penetratuas, quas Dominus ex mortuorum corporibus licet laceratis elicit, audiuit Infantulorumque uagitus lugubres nimis cum doloris ululatibus quasi in materno sinu audiendo similiter annotauit Misericordia autem sanctus Dei motus, usque ad lacrimarum aduberem effusionem, quo ipsa uox ipsum uocabat, Domino ducente peruenit. Et cum illuc peruenisset, nec aliud quam corpora humana in frustra detruncata reperisset, cognouit<sup>2</sup> in spiritu ipsa alicuius innocentis corpus, uel aliquorum innocentium corpuscula extitisse, que tam inhumanam sententiam subierunt Nec sine martiri palma, ipsos quorum hec fuerunt exuue, ab hoc<sup>3</sup> seculo transmigrasse suspicabatur Auxilium tamen pro Dei amore et caritatis intuitu postulatum non denegans, se pro illorum reparacione prostrauit in deuotissimam cum lacrimis oracionem, maxime propter uocem celitus emissam, quam profecto cognouit<sup>2</sup> per Deum linguas cadauerum protulisse Pius igitur sanctus commotus uisceribus, igneque succensus caritatis, ex cognicione<sup>4</sup> eius, quam, ut iam dictum, dudum uiderat, Fol 8a habuit, factus hilarior, pro ipsis | flexis genibus, inundantibus oculis, iunctisque palmis orauit, dicens "Domine Jesu Christe, "qui Lazarum quatruiduanum ac fetidum resuscitasti, immo "qui omnium nostrorum corpora in extremo examine suscitabis, "uestram oro misericordiam, ut non habens ad me peccatorem, "sed ad horum innocentum pressuras respectum piissimum, "corpuscula hec rubeas resuscitari, ad laudem et gloriam tuam "in sempiternum, ut omnes qui mortis horum causam et formam "audierint, te glorificent Deum et Dominum mundi Saluatorem "

Sic igitur sanctus iste, Domini de fidei sue<sup>5</sup> uirtute in Domino presumens et confidens, inter orandum, membra precisa recolligens, et sibi particulas adaptans et coniungens, et in quantum potuit redintegrans, in parcium quamplurimum, set in integritatem potius delectatus, Domino rei consummacionem qui mortificat et uiuificat commendauit Coniuncta igitur corpora, signo crucis triumphali consignauit. Mira fidei uirtus et

<sup>1</sup> ossuum, B<sup>2</sup> cognouit, A.<sup>4</sup> cognicione, A<sup>5</sup> sui, A<sup>3</sup> hoc omitted, B

efficacia, signo crucis uiuifice et orationis ac fidei serui Dei uirtute, *non solum matris orbate animus reparatur, sed et filiorum corpuscula in pristinum et integrum nature sunt reformata decorem, necnon et anime mortuorum ad sua pristina domicilia sunt reuerse.* Ad mansiuncule igitur sue septa (a qua elongatus fuerat, *gracia lignorum ad pulmentaria dequoquenda colligendorum*) ipse senex qui prius detruncati fuerant, Domino iubente integri uiui et alacres sunt reuersi, ducem sanctum suum sequentes pedetentim Ubi more patris, ipsam desolatam cum liberis sibi ipsi restitutis, alimentis quibus potuit, *et que ad manum habuit, pie ac misericorditer confouebat.*

Nesciens ergo quo migraret regina, cum suis infantulis intra uastissimam heremum cum memorato solitario, diu moram ibidem orationibus, uigiliis, ac aliis sanctis operibus eius intenta et iamiam conuenienter informata, et edulio siluestri sustentata, continuabat Post duorum uero mensium curricula, Rex Offa uictoriosissimus domum letus remeauit, spolia deuictorum suis magnatibus regali munificentia gloriose distribuendo, ueruntamen, ne lacrimae gaudia regis, et eorum qui cum eo aduenerant, miserabiliter interromperent, consilium regi que de regina et liberis eius acciderant, diu sub silencio caute dissimulando, et causas absencie eius fictas annectendo, *concelabant.* Tandem cum rex uehementer admiraretur ubinam regina delituisset, que ipsi regi ab ancipiti bello reuertenti occurrisset gaudenter teneretur, et in osculis et amplexibus ceteris gaudentius triumphatorem aduentantem suscepisse, sciscitabatur instantius, et toruius et proteruius, quid de ipsa fieret uel euenisset Suspi-  
 Fol 82 cabatur enim eam morbo detentam, ipsamque cum liberis | suis, regis et aliorum hominum, ut quieti uacaret, frequentiam declinasse. Tandem cum iratus nullatenus se uelle amplius ignorare, cum iuramento, quid de uxore sua et liberis euenisset, uultu toruo asseruisset, unus ex editis omnia que acciderant, de tyrannico eius mandato, et mandati plenaria execucione, seriatim enarrauit

Hinc auditis, risus in luctum, gaudium in lamenta, iubilus in singultus flebiliter conuertuntur, totaque regia ululatibus personuit et meroribus Lugensque rex diu tam immane infortunium, induit se sacco cilicino, aspersum cinere, ac multipliciter



deformatum. Tandem monitu suorum, qui dicebant *non uirorum magnificorum sed* potius effeminatorum, dolorem interiecto solacio nolle temperare<sup>1</sup>, esse proprium *et consuetudinem*, rex cepit respirare, *et* dolori modum imponere. Consilio igitur peritorum, qui nouerant regem libenter *in tempore prospero* in studio uenatico plurimum delectari, conuocantur uenatores, ut rex spaciaturus uenando, dolorem suum diminueret *et* luctum solacio demulceret. Qui inter uenandum dum per siluarum abdita, Deo misericordiarum *et* totius consolac[i]onis ducente, feliciter solus per inuia oberrauit, *et* tandem ad heremitorium memorati heremite directe peruenit, eiusque exiguum domicilium subintrans, humaniss[im]e *et* cum summo gaudio receptus est. Et cum humili residens sedili, membra<sup>2</sup> fatigata quieti daret ad horam, recolens qualiter uxorem suam ibidem quondam diuinitus reperisset, *et* feliciter educasset, *et* educatam duxisset in uxorem, *et* quam elegantem ex ea prolem protulisset, eruperunt lacrimae cum gemitibus, *et* in querelas lugubres ora resoluens, hospiti suo sinistrum de uxore sua qui<sup>3</sup> infausto sidere nuper euenerat quam *et* ipse quondam viderat, enarrauit. At senex sereno uultu, factus ex intrinsecus concepto gaudio alacrior, consolatus est regem, *et* in uocem exultacionis eminus prorumpens "Eia domine mi rex, eia, ait, uere Deus misericordiarum, Dominus, "famulos suos quasi pater filios in omni tribulacione post presuras consolatur, percutit *et* medetur, deicit ut gloriosius eleuet "pregrauatum. Uiuat uxor tua, cum liberis tuis in omni sospitate restauratis non meis meritis, sed potius tuis, integritati, "sanitati *et* leticie plenius qui trucidabantur restituuntur. Re- "cognosce<sup>4</sup> quanta fecit tibi Dominus, *et* in laudes *et* gratiarum "actiones totus exurge" Tunc prosiliens sanctus pre gaudio, euocauit reginam, que in interiori diuerticulo, pueros suos balneomicus materno studio confouebat. Que cum ad regem intro-

Fol 9 a isset, uix se | gaudio capiens, pedibus mariti sui prouoluta, in lacrimis exultacionis inundauit. In cuius amplexus desideratissimos ruens rex, ipsam in manus quam dici possit gaudium suscepit. Interim senex, pueros elegantissimos *et* ex ablucione elegantiores, uestit, comit, *et* paterno more *et* affectu componit, *et* ad presentiam patris *et* matris introducit. Quos pater intra

<sup>1</sup> obtemperare, B    <sup>2</sup> membra, A    <sup>3</sup> qui, AB, quae, Wats    <sup>4</sup> recognosce, A

brachia suscipiens, et ad pectus arctioribus amplexibus applicans, roseis uultibus infantum oscula imprimit multiplicata, quos tamen rore lacrimarum, pre nimia mentis exultacione, maderfecit. Et cum diucius eorum colloquus pasceret, conuersus rex ad senem, ait "O pater sancte, pater dulcissime<sup>1</sup>, mentis "mee reparator, et gaudi cordis mei restaurator, qua merita "uestra, caritatis officia, pietatisque beneficia, prosequar remuneratione<sup>2</sup> Accipe ergo, licet multo maiora exigant "merita tua, quicquid erarium meum ualet effundere, me, meos, "et mea, tue expono uoluntati " At sanctus, "Domine mi rex, "non decet me peccatorem conuersum ad Dominum, ad insanias "quas reliqui falsas respicere Tu uero potius pro animabus "patris tui et matris tue, quibus quandoque carus fueram ac "familiaris, et tua, et uxoris tue, et liberorum tuorum corporali "sanitate, et salute spirituali, regni tui soliditate, et successorum "tuorum prosperitate, Deo gratus, qui tot in te concessit beneficia, cenobium quoddam fundare, uel aliquod dirutum studeas "restaurare in quo digne et laudabiliter Deo in perpetuum "seruiatur, et tui memoria cum precibus ad Dominum fuis, cum "benedictionibus semper recenter recolatur " Et conuersus ad reginam, ait, "Et tu, filia, quamuis mulier, non tamen mulieriter, ad hoc regem accendas et admoneas diligenter, filiosque "tuos instrui facias, ut<sup>2</sup> et Dominum Deum, qui eos uite reparauit, "studeant gratanter honorare, et eidem fideliter famulando "fundandi cenobii possessiones ampliare, et tueri libertates."

Descensus ad secundum Offam

Sanctus autem ad cellam reuersus, post paucum temporis ab incolatu huius mundi migravit ad Dominum, mercedem eternam pro labore temporali recepturus. Rex autem, cito monita ipsius salubria dans obliuioni et incurie, ex tunc ocio ac paci uacauit prolemque copiosam utriusque sexus expectabilis pulchritudinis procreauit. Unde semen regium a latere et descensu felix suscepit incrementum. Qui completo uite sue tempore, post etatem bonam quieuit in pace, et regaliter sepultus, appositus est ad patres suos, in eo multum redarguendus, quod cenobium<sup>3</sup> uotiuo affectu repromissum, thesauris parcendo non construxit. Post

<sup>1</sup> sancte et dulcissime, B

<sup>2</sup> ut added above line, A, B.

<sup>3</sup> cenobium, A, the s is erased in B

uictorias enim a Domino<sup>1</sup> sibi collatas, amplexibus et ignaue necnon auaricie plus equo indulsit Prosperitas enim secularis, fol 9b animos, licet uiriles, solet frequenter effeminare Ueruntamen hoc onus humeris filii sui moriturus apposuit qui cum deuota assercione, illud sibi suscepit Sed nec ipse Deo auerso pollicita, prout patri suo promiserat, compleuit, set filio suo huius uoti obligacionem in fine uite sue dereliquit Et sic memorati uoti uinculum, sine efficacia complementi de patre in filium descendens, usque ad tempora Pineredi filii Tuinfreth suspendebatur. Quibus pro pena negligentie, tale euenit infortunium, ut omnes principes, quos Offa magnificus edomuerat, a subiectione ipsius Offe et posteritatis sue procaciter recesserunt, et ipsum morientem despexerunt Quia ut predictum est, ad mortem uergens, delictus et senu ualitudine marcuit eneruatus

## De ortu secundi Offe

Natus est igitur memorato Tuinfred[o]<sup>2</sup> (et qui de stemate regum fuit) filius, uidelicet Pineredus, usque ad annos adolescentie inutilis, poplitibus contractis, qui nec oculorum uel aurum plene officio naturali fungeretur Unde patri suo Tuinfredo et matri sue Marcelline, oneri fuit non honori, confusione et non exultacioni Et licet unusquisque eis fuisset, mallet prole caruisse, quam talem habuisse Ueruntamen memorie reducentes euentum Offe magni, qui in tenera etate penitus erat inutilis, et postea, Deo propicio, penitus sibi restitutus, mirabili strenuitate omnes suos edomuit aduersarios, et bello prepotens, gloriose multociens de magnis hostibus triumphauit spem conceperunt, quod eodem medico medente (Christo uidelicet, qui etiam mortuos suscitatur, propiciatus) posset similiter uisitari et sibi restitui. Pater igitur eius et mater ipsum puerum inito salubri consilio, in templo presentarunt Domino, uotiuam deuocione firmiter promittentes "Ut si ipsum Deus restauraret, quod parentes eius negligenter omiserunt, ipse puer cum se facultas offerret fideliter adimpleret" uidelicet de cenobio<sup>3</sup>, cuius mencio prelibata est, honorifice construendo uel de diruto restaurando Et cum hec tam puer quam pater et mater deuotissime postularent, exaudita est oratio eorum a Deo, qui se nunquam difficilem exhibet precibus iustis supplicantium, hoc modo

<sup>1</sup> deo, B<sup>2</sup> tuinfreth, B<sup>3</sup> scenobio, A, s erased B

## Quomodo prosperabatur.

Erat in eadem regione (Merciorum uidelicet) quidam tyrannus, pocius destruens et dissipans regni nobilitatem, quam regens, nomine Beormredus<sup>1</sup>. Hic generosos, quos regius sanguis preclaros [fecerat]<sup>2</sup>, usque ad internecionem subdole persequabatur, relegauit, et occulta nece perdidit iugulandos. Sciebat enim, quod uniuersis de regno merito extitit odiosus, et ne aliquis loco ipsius subrogaretur (et presertim de sanguine regio propagatus) uehementer formidabat. Tetendit insuper laqueos Tuinfredo et uxori eius, ut ipsos de terra expelleret, uel pocius perderet trucidatos. | Puerum autem Pinefredum<sup>3</sup> spreuit, nec ipsum querere ad perdendum dignabatur, reputans eum inutilem et ualitudinarium. Fugientes igitur memoratus Tuinfredus et uxor eius et familia a facie persequentis, sese in locis tucioribus receperunt, ne generali calumpnie inuoluerentur. Quod compariens Pinefredus adolescens, quasi a graui sompno expergefactus, erexit se: et compagibus neruorum laxatis, et miraculose protensis, sese de longa desidia redarguens, fecit alces, brachia, crura, pedes, extendendo. Et aliquociens oscitans, cum loqui conaretur, solutum est unculum lingue eius, et loquebatur recte, uerba proferens ore facundo promptius articulata. Quid plura<sup>2</sup> de contracto, muto, et ceco, fit elegans corpore, eloquens sermone, acie perspicax oculorum. Qui tempore modico in tantam floruit ac uiguit strenuitatem, ut nullus in regno Merciorum, ipsi in moribus et probitate multiplex ualuit comparari, unde ipsi Mercii, secundum Offam, et non Pinefredum, iam nominantes (quia a Deo respectus et electus fuisset, eodem modo quo et rex Offa filius regis Warmundi) ceperunt ipsi quasi Domino uniuersaliter adherere, ipsumque iam factum militem, contra regem Beormredum et eius insidias, potenter ac prudenter protegere, dantes ei dexteras, et fedus cum ipso, prestitis iuramentis, ineuntes. Quod audiens Beormredus, doluit, et dolens timuit sibi uehementer. Penituitque eum amarissime, ipsum Pinefredum<sup>3</sup> (qui iam Offa nominabatur) cum ceteris fraudulenter non intremisse....

\* \* \* \*

<sup>1</sup> de tyrannide Beormredi regis Mercie, B.<sup>2</sup> fecerat, wanting in A, added in margin, B<sup>3</sup> Pinefredum, B, Penefredum, A, but with 1 above in first case.

Fol 11a

Qualiter Offa rex uxorem duxerit.

Diebus itaque sub eisdem, regnante in Francia Karolo rege magno ac uictoriosissimo, quedam puella, facie uenusta, *sed* mente nimis inhonesta, ipsi regi consanguinea, pro quodam quod patrauerat crimine flagiciosissimo, addicta est iudicialiter morti ignomimose, uerum, ob regie dignitatis reuerentiam, igni uel ferro tradenda non iudicatur, *sed* in nauicula armamentis carente, apposito uctu tenui, uentis *et* mari, eorumque ambiguis casibus exponitur condempnata. Que diu uarnis<sup>1</sup> procellis exagitata, tandem fortuna trahente, litori Britonum est appulsa, et cum in terra subiecta potestati regis Offe memorata cumba applicuisset, conspectui regis protinus presentatur. Interrogata autem quenam esset, respondens, patria lingua affirmauit, se Karolo regi Francorum fuisse consanguinitate propinquam, Fol 11b *Drīdamque nominatam, sed per tyrannidem |* quorundam ignobilium (quorum nuptias ne degeneraret, spreuit) tali fuisse discrimini adiudicatam, abortisque lacrimis addidit dicens, "Deus  
"autem qui innocentes a laqueis insidiantium liberat, me  
"captiuam ad alas tue protectionis, o regum serenissime, feliciter  
"transmisit, ut meum infortunium, in auspiciū fortunatum  
"transmutetur, et beatior in exilio quam in natali patria, ab  
"omni predicer posteritate"

Rex autem uerborum suorum ornatum et eloquentiam, et corporis puellaris cultum et elegantiam considerans<sup>2</sup>, motus pietate, precepit ut ad comitissam Marcellin[am]<sup>3</sup> matrem suam tucius duceretur alenda, ac mitius sub tam honeste matrone custodia, donec regum mandatum audiret, confouenda. Puella igitur infra paucos dies, macie et pallore per alimenta depulsis, redit decor pristinus, ita ut mulierum pulcherima censeretur. *Sed* cito in uerba iactantie et elacionis (secundum patrie sue consuetudinem) prorumpens, domine sue comitisse, que materno affectu eam dulciter educauerat, molesta nimis fuit, ipsam procaciter contempnendo. *Sed* comitissa, pro amore filii sui regis, omnia pacienter tolerauit licet et ipsa dicta puella, inter comitem et comitissam uerba discordie seminasset. Una igitur dierum, cum rex ipsam causa uisitacionis adiens, uerbis consolatornis

<sup>1</sup> uarnis repeated, A, second uarnis cancelled, B<sup>2</sup> considerans, B, inserted in margin, omitted, A<sup>3</sup> Marcelline, A, Marcell, B

alloqueretur, incidit in retia amoris illius, erat enim iam species illius concupiscibilis. Clandestino igitur ac repentino matrimonio ipsam sibi, inconsultis patre et matre, necnon et magnatibus suis uniuersis, copulauit. Unde uterque parentum, dolore ac tedio in etate senili contabescens, dies uite abreuando, sue mortis horam lugubriter anticiparunt, sciebant enim ipsam mulerculam fuisse et regalibus amplexibus prorsus indignam, perpendebantque iamiam ueracissime, non sine causa exilio lacrimabili, ipsam, ut predictum est, fuisse conde[m]pnatam. Cüm autem annos longeu<sup>e</sup> senectutis uixisset<sup>1</sup> comes Turnfredus, et pre senectute calgassent oculi eius, data filio suo regi benedictione, nature debita persoluit, cuius corpus magnifice, prout decuit, tradidit sepulture. Anno quoque sub eodem uxor eius comitissa Marcellina, mater uidelicet regis, ualedicens filio, ab huius incolatu seculi feliciter transmigrauit.

Fol 19a

De sancto Ælberto<sup>2</sup> cui tercia filia regis Offe  
tradenda fuit nuptui

Erat quoque quidam iuuenis, cui rex Offa regnum Orientalium Anglorum, quod eum iure sanguinis contingebat, concesserat, nomine Ælbertus. De cuius uirtutibus<sup>3</sup> quidam uersificator, solitus regum laudes et gesta describere, eleganter ait;

Ælbertus iuuenis fuerat rex, fortis ad arma,

Pace pius, pulcher corpore, mente sagax

Cumque Humbertus Archiepiscopus Lichefeldensis, et Vnwona Episcopus Legrecestrensis, uiri sancti et discreti, et de nobili stirpe Merciorum oriundi, speciales essent regis consiliani, et semper que honesta erant et iusta atque utilia, regi Offe suggessissent, inuidebat eis regina uxor Offe, que prius Drida, postea uero Quendrida, id est regina Drida, quia regi ex insperato nupsit, est appellata sicut in precedentibus plenius enarratur. Mulier auara et subdola, superbiens, eo quod ex stirpe Karoli originem duxerat, et inexorabili odio uiros memoratos persequabatur, tendens eis muscipulas muliebres. Porro cum ipsi reges supradictos regi Offe in spiritu consilii salubriter reconciliassent, et ut eidem regi federe matrimoniali specialius coniungerentur, diligenter et effigaciter procurassent, ipsa mulier facta eorum

<sup>1</sup> uixisset, B, inserted in margin, omitted, A      <sup>2</sup> Alberto, etc. passim, B  
<sup>3</sup> uirtutibus, in margin, later hand, A, in B, over erasure

nitebatur in irritum reuocare, nec poterat, quibus acriter inuidebat. Ipsas enim puellas filias suas, ultramarinis, alienigenis, in regis supplantacionem et regni Merciorum perniciem, credit tradidisse maritandas Cuius rei prescu dicti Episcopi, muliebre consilium prudencie repagulis impediabant. Uerum et adhuc tertia filia regis Offe in thalamo regine remansit maritanda, Ælfleda nomine Procurantibus igitur supradictis episcopis, inclinatam est<sup>1</sup> cor regis ad consensum, licet contradiceret regina, ut et<sup>2</sup> hec regi Ælberto nuptui traderetur ut et sic specialius regi Offe teneretur in fideitate dilectionis obligatus. Uocatus igitur rex Ælbertus, a rege Offa, ut filiam suam desponsaret, affuit festiuus et gaudens, ob honorem sibi a tanto rege oblatum. Cui amabilius rex occurrens aduentanti, recepit ipsum in osculo et paterno amplexu, dicens "Prospere ueneris fili et gener, ex hoc, iuuenis amantissime, te in filium adopto "specialem" Sed hec postquam efferate regine plenius innotuerit<sup>3</sup>, plus accensa est luore ac furore, dolens eum pietatis in manu<sup>4</sup> regis et suorum fidelium prosperari. Vidensque sue nequicie argumenta minime preualere, nec hanc saltem terciam filiam suam, ad uoluntatem suam alicui transmarino amico suo, in regni subuersionem (quod certissime sperauerat) dare nuptui, cum non preualuisset in dictos episcopos huius rei auctores eminus malignari, in Ælbertum regem uirus sue malicie truculenter euomuit, hoc modo

#### Fraus muliebris crudelissima.

Rex huius rei ignarus tantam latitasse fraudem non credebat, immo potius credebat hec ipsi omnia placitura. Cum igitur rex pussimus ipsam super premissis<sup>5</sup> secrecius conueniret, consilium querens qualiter et quando forent complenda, hec respondit. "Ecce tradidit Deus hodie inimicum tuum, tibi caute, si sapiis, trucidandum, qui sub specie superficiali, uenenum prodicionis in te et regnum tuum exercende, nequiter, ut fertur, occultauit "Et te cupit iam senescentem, cum sit iuuenis et elegans, de regno supplantando precipitare, et posterum suorum, immo et multorum, ut iactitat, quos regnis et possessionibus uolenter

<sup>1</sup> est in margin, A

<sup>4</sup> in pietatis manu, B

<sup>2</sup> et omitted, B

<sup>5</sup> premissis, A

<sup>3</sup> innotuerunt, B

*"et inuste spoliasti, iniurias undicare. In cuius rei fidem, michi a meis amicis significatum est, quod regis Karoli multis muneribus et nunciis occultis intermeantibus, implorat ad hoc patrociniū se spondens ei fore tributarium. Illo igitur, dum se tibi fortuna prebet fauorabilem, extincto latenter, regnum eius in ius tuum et successorum tuorum transeat in eternum."*

Cui rex mente nimium perturbatus, et de uerbis quibus credidit inesse ueraciter falsitatem et fraudem, cum indignacione ipsam increpando, respondit *"Quasi una de stultis mulieribus locuta es! Absit a me, absit, tam detestabile factum! Quo perpetrato, mihi meisque successoribus foret obprobrium semipiternum, et peccatum in genus meum cum graui undicta diucius propagabile"* Et his dictis, rex iratus ab ea recessit, detestans tantos ac tales occultos laqueos in muliere latitasse.

Interea mentis perturbacione paulatim deposita, et his ciuilitur dissimulatis, reges consederunt ad mensam pransuri. ubi regalibus esculentis et poculentis refectioni, in timpanis, citharis, et choris, diem totum in ingenti gaudio expleuerunt. Sed regina malefica, interim a ferali proposito non recedens, iussit in dolo thalamum more regio pallis sericis et auleis sollempniter adornari, in quo rex Ælbertus nocturnum caperet sompnum, iuxta stratum quoque regum sedile preparari fecit, cultu nobilissimo instructum, et cortinis undique redimitum. Sub quo etiam fossam  
Fol 20<sup>a</sup> preparari fecit profundam, | ut nephandum propositum perduceret ad effectum.

De martirio Sancti Ælberti, regis innocentissimi.

Regina uero uultu sereno conceptum scelus pallians, intrauit in palatium, ut tam regem Offanum quam regem Ælbertum exhilararet Et inter iocandum, conuersa ad Ælbertum, nihil sinister<sup>1</sup> suspicantem, ait, *"Fili, ueni uisendi causa puellam tibi nuptu copulandam, te in thalamo meo sicienter expectantem, ut sermonibus gratissimis amores subarres profuturos"* Surgens igitur rex Ælbertus, secutus est reginam in thalamum ingredientem rege Offano remanente, qui nil mali formidabat. Ingresso igitur rege Ælberto cum regina, exclusi sunt omnes qui eundem e uestigio sequebantur sui commilitones Et cum puellam expectasset, ait regina *"Sede fili dum ueniat aduocata"*

<sup>1</sup> sinisterum, B



Et cum in memorato sedili residisset, cum ipsa sella in fosse corruit profunditatem In qua, subito a lictoribus quos regina non procul absconderat, rex innocens suffocatus expirauit Nam ilico cum corruisset, proiecerunt super eum regina et sui complices nephandissimi puluina cum uestibus et cortinis, ne clamans ab aliquibus audiretur Et sic elegantissimus iuuenis rex et martir *Ælbertus*, innocenter et sine noxa extinctus, accepit coronam uite, [quam]<sup>1</sup> ad instar *Johannis Baptiste* mulieris laqueis ifretitus, meruit optinere

Puella uero regis filia *Ælfleda* uirguncula uenustissima, cum hec audisset, non tantum matris detestata facinora, sed totius seculi pompam relinquens, habitum suscepit religionis, ut uirgo martiris uestigia sequeretur [P]orro<sup>2</sup> ad augmentum<sup>3</sup> muliebris tyrannidis<sup>4</sup>, decollatum est corpusculum exanime quia adhuc palpitans uidebatur Clam igitur delatum est corpus cum capite, usque ad partes remotiores ad occultandum sub profundo terre, et dum spiculator cruentus ista ferret, caput obiter amissum est feliciter nox enim erat, et festinabat lictor, et aperto ore sacci, caput cecidit euolutum, ignorante hoc portitore Corpus autem ab ipso carnifice sine aliquo teste conscio ignobiliter est humatum. Contigit autem, Deo sic disponente, ut quidam cecus eadem via graderetur, baculo semitam pretemptante Habens autem caput memoratum pro pedum offendiculo, mirabatur quidnam esset erat enim pes eius irretitus in cincinnis capitis flauis et prolixis Et palrans cercius cognouit<sup>5</sup> esse caput hominis decollati Et datum est ei in spiritu intelligere, quod alicuius sancti caput esset, ac iuuenis Et cum maduissent manus eius sanguine, apposuit et sanguinem faciei sue et loco ubi quandoque oculi eius extiterant, et ilico restitutus est ei uisus, et quod habuerat pro pedum offendiculo, factum est ei felix luminis restitucio Sed et in eodem loco quo caput sanctum iacuerat, fons erupit lucidissimus Quod cum celebriter<sup>6</sup> fuerat diuulgatum, compertum est hoc fuisse caput sancti adolescentis *Ælberti*, quem regina in thalamo nequiter fecit sugillari ac decollari Corpus autem ubinam locorum occultatum fuerat, penitus ignoratur Hoc cum constaret *Humberto Archiepiscopo*,

<sup>1</sup> quam in margin, A, over erasure, B

<sup>3</sup> augmentum A

<sup>5</sup> cognouit, A

<sup>2</sup> Space for cap left vacant, A

<sup>4</sup> facinoris, B

<sup>6</sup> celeriter, B



**DRIDA (THRYTH) ENTRAPS ALBERTUS (ÆTHELBERT)  
OF EAST ANGLIA AND CAUSES HIM TO BE SLAIN**

*From MS Cotton Nero D I fol 19b*

hæbe seofðan wæs  
æfter munde 3ipe mæce 3eþmæd  
(*Bonulf* II 1937 8)



*facta capsida ex auro et argento, illud iussit in tesaurō recondi precioso in Ecclesia Herefordensi.*

*De predicti facinoris ulcione.*

Cuius tandem detestabilis sceleris a regina perpetrati, ad commilitonum beati regis et Martiris aures cum<sup>1</sup> peruenisset, fama celerius ante lucem aurore diei sequentis clanculo recesserunt, ne de ipsis simile fieret iudicium metuentes. Unde dolens regina, in thalamo ficta infirmitate decubans, quasi uulpecula latitabat.

Rex uero Offa cum de commisso facinore certitudinem comperisset, sese lugens, in cenaculo interiori recludens, pe[r]<sup>2</sup> tres dies cibum penitus non gustauit, animam suam lacrimis, lamentationibus, et ieiunio uehementer affligens. Et execrans mulieris impietatem, eam iussit omnibus uite sue diebus inclusam in loco remotam secreciori peccata sua deplorare, si forte sibi celitus collata gracia, penitendo tanti commissi facinoris maculam posset abolere. Rex autem ipsam postea ut sociam lateris in lecto suo dormire quasi suspectam non permisit<sup>3</sup>.

*De morte illius facinorose regine.*

In loco igitur sibi deputato, commorante regina annis aliquot, insidus latronum preuenta, auro et argento quo multum habundabat spoliata<sup>4</sup>, in puteo suo proprio precipitata, spiritum exalauit, iusto dei iudicio sic condempnata, ut sicut regem Ælbertum innocentem in foueam fecit precipitari, et precipitatum suffocari, sic in putei profunditate submersa, uitam miseram terminaret.

O WIDSITH, ll. 18, 24-49

18 Ætla wēold Hūnum, Eormanric ȝotum,

\* \* \* \* \*

pēodric wēold Froncum, þyle Rondinȝum,

25 Breoca Brondinȝum, Billinȝ Wernum

Ōswine wēold Eowum ond Ytum ȝefwulf,

<sup>1</sup> cum in A 18 inserted after peruenisset, instead of before and this was probably the original reading in B, although subsequently corrected

<sup>2</sup> per, B

<sup>3</sup> corrected to nullatenus dormire quasi suspectam permisit, B

<sup>4</sup> Justa Vindicta, A, in margin.

- Fin Folcwaldin; Frēсна cynne.  
 Sijehere lenjest Sæ-Denum wēold,  
 Hnæf Hōcin;um, Helm Wulfin;um,  
 30. Wald Wōin;um, Wōd pyrin;um,  
 Sæferð Syc;um, Swēom On;endþēow,  
 Sceafthere Ymbrum, Scēafa Lon;-Beardum,  
 Hūn Hætwerum, *ond* Holen Wrosnum.  
 Hrin;weald wæs hāten Herefarena cyning.  
 35. Offa wēold Ongle, Alewih Denum ·  
 sē wæs þāra manna mōðjast ealra, \*  
 nōhwæpre hē ofer Offan eorlscype fremede,  
 ac Offa 3eslō3 ærest monna  
 cniht wesende cynerīca mæst,  
 40. næn; efen-eald him eorlscipe māran  
 on ðrette āne sweorde  
 merce 3emærde wið Myr;in;um  
 bi Fīfeldore, hēoldon forð siþþan  
 En;le *ond* Swāfe, swā hit Offa 3eslō3.  
 45. Hrōþwulf *ond* Hrōð;ār hēoldon lenjest  
 sibbe ætsomne suhtorfædran,  
 siþþan hȳ forwræcon wīcin; a cynn  
*ond* In;eldes ord forbī3dan,  
 forhēowan æt Heorote Heaðo-Beardna þrym.

## PART III

### THE FIGHT AT FINNSBURG

#### SECTION I. THE *FINNSBURG* FRAGMENT

THE *Finnsburg Fragment* was discovered two centuries ago in the library of Lambeth Palace by George Hickes. It was written on a single leaf, which was transcribed and published by Hickes but the leaf is not now to be found. This is to be regretted for reasons other than sentimental, since Hickes' transcript is far from accurate<sup>1</sup>

The *Fragment* begins and breaks off in the middle of a line but possibly not much has been lost at the beginning. For the

<sup>1</sup> Mr Mackie, in an excellent article on the *Fragment* (*J E G Ph* xvi, 251) objects that my criticism of Hickes' accuracy "is not altogether judicial." Mackie urges that, since the MS is no longer extant, we cannot tell how far the errors are due to Hickes, and how far they already existed in the MS from which Hickes copied.

But we must not forget that there are other transcripts by Hickes, of MSS which are still extant, and from these we can estimate his accuracy. It is no disrespect to the memory of Hickes, a scholar to whom we are all indebted, to recognize frankly that his transcripts are not sufficiently accurate to make them at all a satisfactory substitute for the original MS. Hickes' transcript of the *Cottonian Gnomonic Verses* (*Thesaurus*, i, 207) shows an average of one error in every four lines about half these errors are mere matters of spelling, the others are serious. Hickes' transcript of the *Calendar* (*Thesaurus*, i, 203) shows an average of one error in every six lines. When, therefore, we find in the *Finnsburg Fragment* inaccuracies of exactly the type which Hickes often commits, it would be "hardly judicial" to attribute these to the MS which he copied, and to attribute to Hickes in this particular instance an accuracy to which he has really no claim.

Mr Mackie doubts the legitimacy of emending *Garulf* to *Garulf[e]* but we must remember that Hickes (or his printer) was systematically careless as to the finale *e* of *Calendar*, 15, 23, 41, 141, 144, 171, 210, *Gnomonic Verses*, 45. Other forms in the *Finnsburg Fragment* which can be easily paralleled by Hickes' miswritings in the *Calendar* and *Gnomonic Verses* are

Confusion of *u* and *a* (*Finn* 3, 27, perhaps 44) cf. *Gn* 66.

" " *c* " *e* (*Finn* 12) cf. *Cal* 136, *Gn* 44

" " *e* " *æ* (*Finn* 41) cf. *Cal* 44, 73, *Gn* 44

" " *e* " *a* (*Finn* 22) cf. *Cal* 74

" " *eo* " *ea* (*Finn* 28) cf. *Cal* 121

" " letters involving long down stroke, e.g., *f*, *s*, *r*, *p*, *w*, *p*  
(*Finn* 2, 36) cf. *Cal* 97, 142, 180, 181, *Gn* 9

Addition of *n* (*Finn* 22) cf. *Cal* 161.

first lines of the fragment, as preserved, reveal a well-loved opening motive—the call to arms within the hall, as the watcher sees the foes approach. It was with such a call that the *Bjarkamál*, the poem on the death of Rolf Kraki, began “a good call to work” as a fighting king-saint thought it<sup>1</sup>. It is with a similar summons to business that the *Finnsburg Fragment* begins. The watchman has warned the king within the hall that he sees lights approaching—so much we can gather from the two and a half words which are preserved from the watchman’s speech, and from the reply made by the “war-young” king. “This is not the dawn which is rising, but dire deeds of woe, to arms, my men.” And the defending warriors take their posts: at the one door Sigferth and Eaha at the other Ordlaif and Guthlaif, and Hengest himself<sup>2</sup>.

Then the poet turns to the foes, as they approach for the attack. The text as reported by Hickes is difficult but it seems that Garulf<sup>3</sup> is the name of the warrior about to lead the assault on the hall. Another warrior, Guthere, whether a friend, kinsman, or retainer<sup>4</sup> we do not know, is dissuading him, urging him not to risk so precious a life in the first brunt. But Garulf pays no heed, he challenges the champion on guard. “Who is it who holds the door?”

“Sigferth is my name,” comes the reply, “Prince I am of the Secgan a wandering champion known far and wide many a woe, many a hard fight have I endured from me canst thou have what thou seekest.”

So the clash of arms begins and the first to fall is Garulf, son of Guthlaif and many a good man round him. “The swords flashed as if all Finnsburg were afire.”

<sup>1</sup> *Heimskringla*, chap. 220

<sup>2</sup> It has been suggested that the phrase “Hengest himself” indicates that Hengest is the “war young king.” But surely the expression merely marks Hengest out as a person of special interest. If we *must* assume that he is one of the people who have been speaking, then it would be just as natural to identify him with the watcher who has warned the king, as with the king himself. The difficulties which prevent us from identifying Hengest with the king are explained below.

<sup>3</sup> Garulf must be an assailant, since he falls at the beginning of the struggle, whilst we are told that for five days none of the defenders fell.

<sup>4</sup> Very possibly Guthere is uncle of Garulf. For Garulf is said to be son of Guthlaif (l. 35) and a Guthere would be likely to be a brother of a Guthlaif. Further, as Klaeber points out (*Engl. Stud.* xxxix, 307) it is the part of the uncle to protect and advise the nephew.

Never, we are told, was there a better defence than that of the sixty champions within the hall, "Never did retainers repay the sweet mead better than his bachelors did unto Hnæf. For five days they fought, so that none of the men at arms fell but they held the doors" After a few more lines the piece breaks off.

There are many textual difficulties here But these, for the most part, do not affect the actual narrative, which is a story of clear and straightforward fighting. It is when we try to fit this narrative into relationship with the *Episode* in *Beowulf* that our troubles begin Within the *Fragment* itself one difficulty only need at present be mentioned Guthlaf is one of the champions defending the hall. Yet the leader of the assault, Garulf, is spoken of as Guthlaf's son Of course it is possible that we have here a tragic incident parallel to the story of Hildebrand and Hadubrand. father and son may have been separated through earlier misadventures, and now find themselves engaged on opposite sides This would harmonize with the atmosphere of the *Finnsburg* story, which is one of slaughter breaking out among men near of kin, so that afterwards an uncle and a nephew are burnt on the same pyre. And it has been noted<sup>1</sup> that Garulf rushes to the attack only after he has asked "Who holds the door?" and has learnt that it is Sigferth Guthlaf had gone to the opposite door. Can Garulf's question mean that he knows his father Guthlaf to be inside the hall, and wishes to avoid conflict with him? Possibly, but I do not think we can argue much from this double appearance of the name Guthlaf. It is possible that the occurrence of Guthlaf as Garulf's father is simply a scribal error. For, puzzling as the tradition of *Finnsburg* everywhere is, it is peculiarly puzzling in its proper names, which are mostly given in forms that seem to have undergone some alteration And even if *Gūðlāfes sunu* be correctly written, it is possible that the Guthlaf who is father of Garulf is not to be identified with the Guthlaf whom Garulf is besieging within the hall<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Koegel, *Geschichte d. deut. Litt.* 1, 1, 165

<sup>2</sup> Klaeber (*Engl. Stud.* xxxix, 308) reminds us that, as there are two warriors named Godric in the *Battle of Maldon* (l. 325), so there may be two warriors named Guthlaf here But to this it might possibly be replied that "Godric" was, in England, an exceedingly common name, "Guthlaf" an exceedingly rare one



One or other of these rather unsatisfactory solutions must unfortunately be accepted. For no theory is possible which will save us from admitting that, according to the received text, Guthlaf is fighting on the one side, and a "son of Guthlaf" on the other.

## SECTION II. THE EPISODE IN *BEOWULF*

Further details of the story we get in the *Episode* of *Finnsburg*, as recorded in *Beowulf* (ll 1068-1159)

Beowulf is being entertained in the court of the king of the Danes, and the king's harper tells the tale of Hengest and Finn. Only the main events are enumerated. There are none of the dramatic speeches which we find in the *Fragment*. It is evident that the tale has been reduced in scope, in order that it may be fitted into its place as an episode in the longer epic.

The tone, too, is quite different. Whereas the *Fragment* is inspired by the lust and joy of battle, the theme of the *Episode*, as told in *Beowulf*, is rather the pity of it all, the legacy of mourning and vengeance which is left to the survivors.

For never can true reconciliation grow  
Where wounds of deadly hate have struck so deep

It is on this note that the *Episode* in *Beowulf* begins with the tragic figure of Hildeburh. Hildeburh is closely related to both contending parties. She is sister to Hnæf, prince of the "Half-Danes," and she is wedded to Finn, king of the Frisians. Whatever may be obscure in the story, it is clear that a fight has taken place between the men of Hnæf and those of Finn, and that Hnæf has been slain probably by Finn directly, though perhaps by his followers<sup>1</sup>. A son of Finn has also fallen.

With regard to the peoples concerned there are difficulties. Finn's Frisians are presumably the main Frisian race, dwelling in and around the district still known as Friesland; for in the Catalogue of Kings in *Widsith* it is said that "Finn Folcwalding

<sup>1</sup> Finn is called the *bana*, "slaver" of Hnæf. But this does not necessarily mean that he slew him with his own hand, it would be enough if he were in command of the assailants at the time when Hnæf was slain. Cf. *Beowulf*, l 1968.

ruled the kin of the Frisians<sup>1</sup>." Hnæf and his people are called Half-Danes, Danes and Scyldings, Hnæf is therefore presumably related to the Danish royal house. But, in no account which has come down to us of that house, is Hnæf or his father Hoc ever mentioned as king or prince of Denmark, and their connection with the family of Hrothgar, the great house of Scyldings who ruled Denmark from the capital of Leire, remains obscure. In *Widsuth*, the people ruled over by Hnæf are called "children of Hoc" (*Hōcingum*), and are mentioned immediately after the "Sea-Danes<sup>2</sup>."

Then there is a mysterious people called the *Eotens*, upon whom is placed the blame of the struggle. "Verily Hildeburh had little reason to praise the good faith of the Eotens" This is the typical understatement of Old English rhetoric: it can only point to deliberate treachery on the part of the Eotens. Our interpretation of the poem will therefore hinge largely upon our interpretation of this name. There have been two views as to the Eotens. The one view holds them to be Hnæf's Danes, and consequently places on Hnæf the responsibility for the aggression. This theory is, I think, quite wrong, and has been the cause of much confusion but it has been held by scholars of great weight<sup>3</sup>. The other view regards the Eotens as subjects

<sup>1</sup> The idea that Finn's Frisians are the "North Frisians" of Schleswig has been supported by Grein (*Eberts Jahrbuch*, iv, 270) and, following him, by many scholars, including recently Sedgfield (*Beowulf*, p. 258). The difficulties of this view are very many: one only need be emphasized. We first hear of these North Frisians of Schleswig in the 12th century, and Saxo Grammaticus tells us expressly that they were a colony from the greater Frisia (Book xiv, ed. Holder, p. 465). At what date this colony was founded we do not know. The latter part of the 9th century has been suggested by Langhans: so has the end of the 11th century by Lauridsen. However this may be, all the evidence precludes our supposing this North Friesland, or, as Saxo calls it, Friesland Minor, to have existed at the date to which we must attribute the origin of the Finn story. On this point the following should be consulted: Langhans (V), *Ueber den Ursprung der Nordfriesen*, Wien, 1879 (most valuable on account of its citation of documents: the latter part of the book, which consists of an attempt to rewrite the Finn story by dismissing as corrupt or spurious many of the data, must not blind us to the value of the earlier portions); Lauridsen, *Om Nordfriesernes Indvandring i Sønderjylland*, *Historisk Tidsskrift*, 6 R., 4 B ii, 318-87, Kjøbenhavn, 1893; Siebs, *Zur Geschichte der Englisch-Friesischen Sprache*, 1889, 23-6; Chadwick, *Origin*, 94. Much in Hoops *Reallexikon*, s. v. *Friesen*, and Bremer in *Pauls Grdr.* (2), iii, 848, where references will be found to earlier essays on the subject.

<sup>2</sup> The theory that Hnæf is a captain of Healfdene is based upon a rendering of l. 1064 which is in all probability wrong.

<sup>3</sup> The view that the *Eotenas* are the men of Hnæf and Hengest has been held by Thorpe (*Beowulf*, pp. 78-7), Ettmüller (*Beowulf* 1840, p. 108), Bouterwek

of Finn and foes of Hnæf. This view has been more generally held, and it is, as I shall try to show, only along these lines that a satisfactory solution can be found.

The poet continues of the woes of Hildeburh "Guiltless, she lost at the war those whom she loved, child and brother. They fell as was fated, wounded by the spear, and a sad lady was she Not for naught did the daughter of Hoc [i.e. Hildeburh] bewail her fate when morning came, when under the sky she could behold the murderous bale of her kinsfolk .."

Then the poet turns to the figure of Finn, king of the Frisians His cause for grief is as deep as that of Hildeburh. For he has lost that body of retainers which to a Germanic chief, even as to King Arthur, was dearer than a wife<sup>1</sup> "War swept away all the retainers of Finn, except some few"

What follows is obscure, but as to the general drift there is no doubt. After the death of their king Hnæf, the besieged Danes are led by Hengest Hengest must be Hnæf's retainer, for he is expressly so called (*þeodnes þegn*) "the king's thegn" So able is the defence of Hengest, and so heavy the loss among Finn's men, that Finn has to come to terms Peace is made between Finn and Hengest, and the terms are given fully in the *Episode* Unfortunately, owing to the confusion of pronouns, we soon lose our way amidst the clauses of this treaty, and it becomes exceedingly difficult to say who are the people who are alluded to as "they" This is peculiarly unlucky because here again the critical word *Eotena* occurs, but amid such a tangle of "thems" and "theys" that it is not easy to tell from this passage to which side the Eotens belong<sup>2</sup>

But one thing in the treaty is indisputable In the midst of these complicated clauses, it is said of the Danes, the retainers

(*Germania*, i, 389), Holtzmann (*Germania*, viii, 492), Moller (*Volksepos*, 94-5), Chadwick (*Origin*, 53), Clarke (*Sidelights*, 184)

<sup>1</sup> "And therefore, said the King .much more I am sornier for my good knights' loss, than for the loss of my fair queen For queens I might have enow but such a fellowship of good knights shall never be together in no company" Malory, *Morte Darthur*. Bk xx, chap ix

<sup>2</sup> The argument of Bugge (*PBB* xii, 37) that the Eotens here (l 1088) must be the Frisians, is inconclusive but so is Miss Clarke's argument that they must be Danes (*Sidelights*, 181), as is shown by Lawrence (*Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxx, 395),

of Hnæf, that they are not to be taunted with a certain fact: or perhaps it may be that they are not, when speaking amongst themselves, to remind each other of a certain fact. However that may be, what is clear is the *fact*, the mention of which is barred. Nothing is to be said of it, even though "*they were following the slayer (bana) of their lord, being without a prince, since they were compelled so to do.*" Here, at least, are two lines about the interpretation of which we can be certain and I shall therefore return to them. We must be careful, however, to remember that the word *bana*, "slayer," conveys no idea of fault or criminality. It is a quite neutral word, although it has frequently been mistranslated "murderer," and has thus helped to encourage the belief that Finn slew Hnæf by treachery. Of course it conveys no such implication: *bana* can be applied to one who slays another in self-defence: it implies neither the one thing nor the other.

Then the poet turns to the funeral of the dead champions, who are burned on one pyre by the now reconciled foes. The bodies of Hnæf and of the son (or sons)<sup>1</sup> of Hildeburh are placed together, uncle and nephew side by side, whilst Hildeburh stands by lamenting.

Then, we are told, the warriors, deprived of their friends, departed to Friesland, to their homes and to their high-city.

Hengest still continued to dwell for the whole of that winter with Finn, and could not return home because of the winter storms. But when spring came and the bosom of the earth became fair, there came also the question of Hengest's departure: but he thought more of vengeance than of his sea-journey. "If he might bring about that hostile meeting which he kept in his mind concerning the child (or children) of the Eotens." Here again the word *Eotena* is used ambiguously, but, I think, this time not without some indication of its meaning. It has indeed been urged that the child or children of the Eotens are Hnæf, and any other Danes who may have fallen with him, and that when it is said that Hengest keeps them in mind, it is meant that he is remembering his fallen comrades with a view to taking

<sup>1</sup> I say "son" in what follows, without prejudice to the possibility of more than one son having fallen. It in no wise affects the argument.

vengeance for them. But this would be a queer way of speaking, as Hengest and his living comrades would on this theory be also themselves children of the Eotens<sup>1</sup>. We should therefore need the term to be further defined: "children of the Eotens *who fell at Finnsburg*." It seems far more likely, from the way in which the expression is used here, that the children of the Eotens are the people *upon* whom Hengest intends to take vengeance.

Then, we are further told, Hunlafing places in the bosom of Hengest a sword of which the edges were well known amongst the Eotens. Here again there has been ambiguity, dispute and doubt. Hunlafing has been even bisected into a chief "Hun," and a sword "Lafing" which "Hun" is supposed to have placed in the bosom of Hengest (or of someone else). Upon this act of "Hun" many an interpretation has been placed, and many a theory built. Fortunately it has become possible, by a series of rather extraordinary discoveries, such as we had little reason to hope for at this time of day, to put Hunlafing together again. We now know (and thus I think should be regarded as outside the region of controversy) that the warrior who put the sword into Hengest's bosom *was* Hunlafing. And about Hunlafing we gather, though very little, yet enough to help us. He is apparently a Dane, the son of Hunlaf, and Hunlaf is the brother of the two champions Guthlaf and Ordla<sup>2</sup>. Now Guthlaf and Ordla<sup>2</sup>, as we know from the *Fragment*, were in the hall together

<sup>1</sup> For example, it might well be said of Achilles, whilst thirsting for vengeance upon the Trojans for the death of Patroclus, that "he could not get the children of the Trojans out of his mind." But surely it would be unintelligible to say that "he could not get the child of the Achaeans out of his mind," meaning Patroclus, for "child of the Achaeans" is not sufficiently distinctive to denote Patroclus. Cf. Boer in *ZfdA* XLVII, 134.

<sup>2</sup> In the *Skjoldunga Saga* [extant in a Latin abstract by Arngrim Jonsson, ed. Olrik, 1894], cap. iv, mention is made of a king of Denmark named Leifus who had six sons, three of whom are named Hunleifus, Oddleifus and Gunnleifus—corresponding exactly to O.E. *Hūnlāf*, *Ordlāf* and *Gūðlāf*. That Hunlaf was well known in English story is proved by a remarkable passage unearthed by Dr. Imelmann from *MS Cotton Vesp. D. IV* (fol. 139 b) where Hunlaf is mentioned together with a number of other heroes of Old English story—Wudga, Hama, Hrothulf, Hengest, Horsa (*Hoc testantur gesta rudolphus et hunlapi, Unwini et Widae, horsa et hengesti, Waltef et hame*). See Chadwick, *Origin*, 52. R. Huchon, *Revue Germanique*, III, 626. Imelmann, in *DLZ* xxx, 999 April, 1909. This disposes of the translation "Hun thrust or placed in his bosom Lafing, best of swords," which was adopted by Bugge (*PBB* XII, 33), Holder, ten Brink and Gering. Hun is mentioned in *Widsith* (l. 33) and in the Icelandic *Thulor*.

That Guthlaf, Ordla<sup>2</sup> and Hunlaf must be connected together had been noted by Boer (*ZfdA* XLVII, 139) before this discovery of Chadwick's confirmed him.

with Hengest: it was "Guthlaf, Ordlaſ and Hengest himſelf" who undertook the defence of one of the doors againſt the aſſailants. Guthlaf and Ordlaſ were apparently ſons of the king of Denmark. As Scyldings they would be Hnæf's kiſmen, and accompanied him to his meeting with Finn. Hunlaſing, then, is a nephew of two champions who were attacked in the hall, and it is poſſible, though we cannot prove this, that his father Hunlaſ was himſelf alſo in the hall, and was ſlain in the ſtruggle<sup>1</sup>. At any rate, when Hunlaſ's ſon places a ſword in the boſom of Hengest, this can only mean one thing. It means miſchief. The placing of the ſword, by a prince, in the boſom of another, is a ſymbol of war-ſervice. It means that Hengest has accepted obligations to a Daniſh lord, a Scylding, a kiſman of the dead Hnæf, and conſequently that he means to break the troth which he has ſworn to Finn.

Further, we are told concerning the ſword, that its edges were well known amongſt the Eotens. At firſt ſight this might ſeem, and to many has ſeemed, an ambiguous phrase, for a ſword may be well known amongſt either friends or foes. The old poets loved nothing better than to dwell upon the adornments of a ſword, to ſay how a man, by reaſon of a fine ſword which had been given to him, was honoured amongſt his aſſociates at table<sup>2</sup>. But if this had been the poet's meaning here, he would ſurely have dwelt, not upon the edges of the ſword, but upon its gold-adorned hilt, or its jewelled pommel. When he ſays the *edges* of the ſword were well known amongſt the Eotens, this ſeems to convey a hoſtile meaning. We know that the ill-faith of the Eotens was the cauſe of the trouble. The phrase about the ſword ſeems therefore to mean that Hengest uſed this ſword in order to take vengeance on the Eotens, preſumably for their treachery.

The *Ectenas*, therefore, far from being the men of Hnæf and Hengest, muſt have been their foes.

Then the poet goes on to tell how "Dire ſword-bale came upon the valiant Finn likewise." The Danes fell upon Finn at

<sup>1</sup> The fragment which tells of the fighting in the hall is ſo imperfect that there is nothing impoſſible in the aſſumption, though it is too hazardous to make it.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Beowulf*, ll. 1900 etc.

his own home, reddened the floor of his hall with the life-blood of his men, slew him, plundered his town, and led his wife back to her own people.

Here the *Episode* ends.

### SECTION III. MOLLER'S THEORY

Now our first task is to find what is the relation between the events told in the *Fragment* and the events told in the *Episode* in *Beowulf*. It can, I think, be shown that the events of the *Fragment* precede the events of the *Episode* in *Beowulf*, that is to say that the fight in the hall, of which we are told in the *Fragment*, is the same fight which has taken place before the *Episode* in *Beowulf* begins, the fight which has resulted in the slaughter over which Hildeburh laments, and which necessitates the great funeral described in the first part of the *Episode* (ll 1108-24)

How necessary it is to place the *Fragment* here, before the beginning of the *Episode*, will be best seen, I think, if we examine the theory which has tried to place it elsewhere.

This is the theory, worked out elaborately and ingeniously by Moller<sup>1</sup>, a theory which has had considerable vogue, and many of the assumptions of which have been widely accepted. According to Moller and his followers, the story ran something like this

"Finn, king of the Frisians, had carried off Hildeburh, daughter of Hoc (1076), probably with her consent. Her father Hoc seems to have pursued the fugitives, and to have been slain in the fight which ensued on his overtaking them. After the lapse of some twenty years, the brothers Hnæf and Hengest, Hoc's sons, were old enough to undertake the duty of avenging their father's death. They make an inroad into Finn's country."

Up to this, all is Moller's hypothesis, unsupported by any evidence, either in the *Fragment* or the *Episode*. It is based, so far as it has any real foundation, upon a mythical interpretation of Finn, and upon parallels with the Hild-story, the Gudrun-story, and a North Frisian folk-tale<sup>2</sup>. Some of the

<sup>1</sup> *Das Altenglische Volksepos*, 46-99

<sup>2</sup> C. P. Hansen, *Uld' Söld'ring talen*, Møgeltonde, 1858. See Moller, *Volksepos*, 75 etc

parallels are striking, but they are not sufficient to justify Möller's reconstruction. The authenticity of large portions of the folk-tale is open to doubt<sup>1</sup>, and these portions are vital to any parallel with the story of *Finnsburg*, whilst we have no right to read into the Finn story details from the Hild or Gudrun stories, unless we can show that they are really versions of the same tale and this cannot be shown. Möller's suppositions as to the events before the *Episode* in *Beowulf* opens, must therefore be dismissed. Möller's reconstruction then gets into relation with the real story, as narrated in *Beowulf*.

"A battle takes place in which many warriors, among them Hnæf and a son of Finn (1074, 1079, 1115), are killed. Peace is therefore solemnly concluded, and the slain warriors are burnt (1068-1124).

As the year is too far advanced for Hengest to return home (ll 1130 ff.), he and those of his men who survive remain for the winter in the Frisian country with Finn. But Hengest's thoughts dwell constantly on the death of his brother Hnæf, and he would gladly welcome any excuse to break the peace which has been sworn by both parties. His ill-concealed desire for revenge is noticed by the Frisians, who anticipate it by themselves taking the initiative and attacking Hengest and his men whilst they are sleeping in the hall. *This is the night attack described in the Fragment*. It would seem that after a brave and desperate resistance Hengest himself falls in this fight<sup>2</sup>, but two of his retainers, Guthlaf and Öslaf<sup>3</sup>, succeed in cutting their way through their enemies and in escaping to their own land. They return with fresh troops, attack and slay Finn, and carry his queen Hildeburh off with them (1125-1159)"

Now the difficulties of this theory will, I think, be found to be insuperable. Let us look at some of them.

Möller's view rests upon his interpretation of the Eotens as the men of Hnæf<sup>4</sup>. Since the Eotens are the aggressors, he has consequently to invent the opening, which makes Hnæf and Hengest the invaders of Finn's country and he has therefore to relegate the *Fragment* (in which Hnæf's men are clearly not the attacking party but the attacked) to a later stage in the story. But we have already seen that this interpretation of the Eotens as the men of Hnæf is not the natural one.

Further, the assumption that Hnæf and Hengest are brothers, though still frequently met with<sup>5</sup>, is surely not justifiable

<sup>1</sup> See Mullenhoff in *A f d A* vi, 86

<sup>2</sup> So Möller, *Volksepos*, 152

<sup>3</sup> See *Beowulf*, ed. Wyatt, 1894, p. 145

<sup>4</sup> *Volksepos*, 71 etc

<sup>5</sup> e.g., Sedgfield, *Beowulf*, 2nd ed., p. 258. So 1st ed., p. 13 (*Hoc* being an obvious misprint).



There is nothing which demands any such relationship, and there is much which definitely excludes it. *After Hnæf's death*, Hengest is described as the thegn of Hnæf—an expression without parallel or explanation, if he was really his brother and successor. Again, we are expressly told in the *Episode* that the Danish retainers make terms with Finn, *the slayer of their lord, being without a prince*. How could this be said, if Hengest was now their lord and prince? These lines are, as we have seen, one of the few clear and indisputable things in the poem. An interpretation which contradicts them flatly, by making Hengest the lord of the Danish retainers, seems self-condemned.

Again, in *Beowulf*, the poet dwells upon the blameless sorrows of Hildeburh. We gather that she wakes up in the morning to find that the kinsfolk whom she loves have, during the night, come to blows "Innocent, she lost son and brother<sup>1</sup>—a sad lady she" Are such expressions natural, if Hildeburh had eloped with Finn, and her father had in consequence been slain by him some twenty years before? If she has taken that calmly, and continued to live happily with Finn, would her equanimity be so seriously disturbed by the slaughter of a brother in addition?

But these difficulties are nothing compared to the further difficulties which Moller's adherents have to face when they proceed to find a place for the night attack as told in the *Fragment*, in the middle of the *Episode* in *Beowulf*, i.e. between lines 1145 and 1146. In the first place we have no right to postulate that such important events could have been passed over in silence in the summary of the story as given in *Beowulf*. For Moller has to assume that after the reconciliation between Hengest and Finn, Finn broke his pledges, attacked Hengest by night, slew most of the men who were with him, including perhaps Hengest himself, and that the *Beowulf*-poet nevertheless omitted all reference to these events, though they occur in the midst of the story, and are essential to an understanding of it.

But even apart from this initial difficulty, we find that by no process of explaining *can* we make the night attack narrated

<sup>1</sup> On the poet's use of plural for singular here, see Osthoff, *I.F.* xx, 202-7

in the *Fragment* fit in at the point where Möller places it. In the night attack the men are called to arms by a "war-young king." This "war-young king" cannot be, as Moller supposes, Hengest, for the simple reason that Hengest, as I have tried to show above, far from being the brother of Hnæf, and his successor as king, is his servant and thegn. The king can only be Hnæf. But Hnæf has already been slain before the *Episode* begins. and this makes it impossible to place the *Fragment* (in which Hnæf appears) in the middle of the *Episode*. Further, it is said in the *Fragment* that never did retainers repay a lord better than did his men repay Hnæf. Now these words would only be possible if the retainers were fighting for their lord; that is, either defending him alive or avenging him dead. But Moller's theory assumes that we are dealing with a period when the retainers have definitely left the service of their lord Hnæf, after his death, and have entered the service of his slayer, Finn. They have thus dissolved all bonds with their former lord: they have taken Finn's money and become *his* men. If Finn then turns upon his new retainers and treacherously tries to slay them, it might be said that the retainers defended their own lives stoutly but it would be far-fetched to say that in doing so they repaid their lord Hnæf. Their lord, according to Moller's view, is no longer Hnæf, but Finn, who is seeking their lives.

Against such difficulties as these it is impossible to make headway, and we must therefore turn to some more possible view of the situation<sup>1</sup>.

#### SECTION IV. BUGGE'S THEORY

Let us therefore examine the second theory, which is more particularly associated with the name of Bugge, though it was the current theory before his time, and has been generally accepted since.

According to this view, the *Eotenas* are the men of Finn, and since upon them is placed the blame for the trouble, it

<sup>1</sup> I have thought it necessary to give fully the reasons why Möller's view cannot be accepted, because in whole or in part it is still widely followed in England. Chadwick (*Origin*, 53) still interprets "Eotens" as "Danes"; and Sedgefield (*Beowulf* (2), p. 258) gives Möller's view the place of honour

must be Finn that makes a treacherous attack upon his wife's brother Hnæf, who is his guest in Finnsburg<sup>1</sup>. This is the fight of which the *Fragment* gives us the beginning. Hnæf is slain, and then follow the events as narrated in the *Episode*: the treaty which Finn makes with Hengest, the leader of the survivors. and the ultimate vengeance taken upon Finn by these survivors.

Here I think we are getting nearer to facts, nearer to a view which can command general acceptance. at any rate, in so far as the fight narrated in the *Fragment* is placed before the beginning of the *Episode* in *Beowulf*. Positive evidence that this is the right place for the *Fragment* is scanty, yet not altogether lacking. After all, the fight in the *Fragment* is a night attack, and the fight which precedes the *Episode* in *Beowulf*, as I have tried to show, is a night attack<sup>2</sup>. But our reason for putting the *Fragment* before the commencement of the *Episode* is mainly negative. it lies in the insuperable difficulties which meet us when we try to place it anywhere else

But, it will be objected, there are difficulties also in placing the *Fragment* before the *Episode*. Perhaps but I do not think these difficulties will be found to survive examination

The first objection to supposing that the *Fragment* narrates the same fight as precedes the *Episode* is, that the fight in the *Fragment* takes place at Finnsburg<sup>3</sup>, whilst the fight which precedes the *Episode* apparently takes place away from Finn's capital for after the fighting is over, the dead burned, and the treaty made, the warriors depart "to see Friesland, their homes, and their high-town (*hēa-burh*)"<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The treachery of Finn is emphasized, for example, by Bugge (*PBB* xii, 36), Koegel (*Geschichte d. deut. Litt.* 164), ten Brink (*Pauls Grdr.* (1), ii, 545), Trautmann (*Finn und Hildebrand*, 59), Lawrence (*Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* xxx 397, 430), Ayres (*J. E. G. Ph.* xvi, 290)

<sup>2</sup> *syððan morgen cōm*

*ðā hēo under swegle geseon mehte, etc*

<sup>3</sup> l. 36 The swords flash *swylce eal Finnsburh fyrenu wære*, "as if all Finnsburg were afire" I think we may safely argue from this that the swords are flashing near Finnsburg. It would be just conceivable that the poet's mind travels back from the scene of the battle to Finn's distant home "the swords made as great a flash as would have been made had Finn's distant capital been aflame" but this is a weak and forced interpretation, which we have no right to assume, though it may be conceivable

<sup>4</sup> *Beowulf*, ll. 1125-7. I doubt whether it is possible to explain the difficulty away by supposing that "the warriors departing to see Friesland, their homes and their head-town" simply means that Finn's men, "summoned by Finn in preparation for the encounter with the Danes, return to their respective

But I do not see that this involves us in any difficulty. It is surely quite reasonable that Finnsburg—Finn's castle—where the first fight takes place, is not, and was never meant to be, the same as Finn's capital, his *hēaburh*, his "own home" After all, when a king's name is given to a town, the presumption is rather that the town is *not* his capital, but some new settlement built in a newly acquired territory. *Eādwinesburh* was not the capital of King Eadwine it was the stronghold which he held against the Picts on the outskirts of his realm. Aostā was not the capital of Augustus, nor Fort William of William III, nor Harounabad of Haroun al Raschid So here we know that the chief town of the Frisians was not Finnsburg, but Dorestad "Dorostates of the Frisians<sup>1</sup>." The fight may have taken place at some outlying castle built by Finn, and named after him *Finnsburg*. then he returned, we are told, to his *hēaburh* and it is here, *æt his sylfes hām*, "in his own home" (the poet himself seems to emphasize a distinction) that destruction in the end comes upon him. There is surely no difficulty here

A second discrepancy has often been indicated. In the *Fragment* the fight lasts five days before any one of the defenders falls in the *Episode* (it is argued) Hildeburh in the morning finds her brother slain<sup>2</sup>. Even were this so, I do not know that it need trouble us much. In a detail like this, which

homes in the country," and that "*hēaburh* is a high sounding epic term that should not be pressed." This is the explanation offered by Klaeber (*J E G Ph* vi, 193) and endorsed by Lawrence (*Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxx, 401). But it seems to me taking a liberty with the text to interpret *hēaburh* (singular) as the "respective homes in the country" to which Finn's warriors resort on demobilisation. And the statement of ll 1125-7, that the warriors departed from the place of combat to see Friesland, seems to necessitate that such place of combat was not in Friesland. Klaeber objects to this (surely obvious) inference "If we are to infer [from ll 1125-7] that Finnsburg lies outside Friesland proper, we might as well conclude that *Dyflēn* (Dublin) is not situated in Ireland according to the *Battle of Brunanburh* (*gewitan him þā Norðmenn Dyflēn sēcan and eft Írland*)" But how could anyone infer this from the *Brunanburh* lines? What we are justified in inferring, is, surely, that the *site of the battle of Brunanburh* (from which the Northmen departed to visit Ireland and Dublin) was not identical with Dublin, and did not lie in Ireland. And by exact parity of reason, we are justified in arguing that Finnsburg, the site of the first battle in which Hnæf fell (from which site the warriors depart to visit Friesland and the *hēaburh*) was not identical with the *hēaburh*, and did not lie in Friesland. Accordingly the usual view, that Finnsburg is situated outside Friesland, seems uncontested. See Bugge (*P B B* xii, 29-30), Trautmann (*Finn und Hildebrand* 60) and Boer (*Z f d A* XLVII, 137). Cf Ayres (*J E G Ph* xvi, 294).

<sup>1</sup> See below, p 289.

<sup>2</sup> So Brandl, 984, and Heinzel

does not go to the heart of the story, there might easily be a discrepancy between two versions<sup>1</sup>.

But the whole difficulty merely arises from reading more into the words of the *Episode* than the text will warrant. It is not asserted in the *Episode* that Hildeburh found her kinsfolk dead in the morning, but that in the morning she found "murderous bale amid her kinsfolk." Hildeburh woke up to find a fight in progress. how long it went on, the *Episode* does not say: but that it was prolonged we gather from ll. 1080-5: and there is no reason why the deadly strife which Hildeburh found in the morning might not have lasted five days or more, before it culminated in the death of Hnæf.

Thirdly, the commander in the *Fragment* is called a "war-young king" This, it has been said, is inapplicable to Hnæf, since he is brother of Hildeburh, who is old enough to have a son slain in the combat.

But an uncle may be very young. Beowulf speaks of his uncle Hygelac as young, even though he seems to imply that his own youth is partly past<sup>2</sup>. And no advantage, but the reverse, is gained, even in this point, if, following Moller's hypothesis, and assuming that the fight narrated in the *Fragment* takes place after the treaty with Finn, we make the "war-young king" Hengest. For those who, with Moller, suppose Hengest to be brother of Hnæf, will have to admit the avuncular difficulty in him also.

#### SECTION V. SOME DIFFICULTIES IN BUGGE'S THEORY

We may then, I think, accept as certain, that first come the events narrated in the *Fragment*, then those told in the *Episode* in *Beowulf*. But we are not out of our troubles yet. There are difficulties in Bugge's view which have still to be faced.

The cause of the struggle, according to Bugge and his adherents, is a treacherous attack made by Finn upon his brother-in-

<sup>1</sup> Or just as the attack on the Danes began at night, we might suppose (as does Trautmann) that it equally culminated in a night assault five days later. There would be obvious advantage in night fighting when the object was to storm a hall. Flugumýrr was burnt by night, and so was the hall of Njal. So, too, was the hall of Rolf Kraki. It would be, then, on the morning after this second night assault, that Hildeburh found her kinsfolk dead.

<sup>2</sup> *Beowulf*, l. 1831 cf l. 409.

law Hnæf. According to the *Episode*, it is the Eotens who are treacherous; so Eotens must be another name for the Frisians.

The word occurs three times in the genitive, *Eotena*, once in the dative, *Eotenum*: as a common noun it means "giant," "monster": earlier in *Beowulf* it is applied to Grendel and to the other misbegotten creatures descended from Cain. But how "giant" can be applied to the Frisians, or to either of the contending parties in the Finnsburg fight, remains inexplicable<sup>1</sup> *Eotena* must rather be the name of some tribe. But what tribe? The only people of whom we know, possessing a name at all like this, are the people who colonized Kent, whom Bede calls Jutes, but whose name would in Anglian be in the genitive *Ēotna*, but in the dative *Ēotum*, or perhaps occasionally *Ēotnum*, *Ēotenum*<sup>2</sup>. Now a scribe transliterating a poem from an Anglian dialect into West-Saxon should, of course, have altered these forms into the corresponding West-Saxon forms *Țtēna* and *Țtum*. But nothing would have been more likely than that he would have misunderstood the tribal name as a common noun, and retained the Anglian forms (altering *eotum* or *eotnum* into *eotenum*) supposing the word to mean "giants." After all, the common noun *eotenum*, "giants," was quite as like the tribal name *Ēotum*, which the scribe presumably had before him, as was the correct West-Saxon form of that name, *Țtum*.

It is difficult therefore to avoid the conclusion that the "Eotens" are Jutes and this is confirmed by three other pieces of evidence, not convincing in themselves, but helpful as subsidiary arguments<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Leo (*Beowulf*, 1839, 67), Mullenhoff (*Nordalbingische Studien*, I, 157), Rieger (*Leasebuch*; *Z f d Ph* III, 398-401), Dederich (*Studien*, 1877, 96-7), Heyne (in his fourth edition) and in recent times Holthausen have interpreted *eoten* as a common noun "giant," "monster," and consequently "foe" in general. But they have failed to produce any adequate justification for interpreting *eoten* as "foe," and Holthausen, the modern advocate of this interpretation, has now abandoned it. Grundtvig (*Beowulfes Beorh*, 1861, pp. 133 etc.) and Möller (*Volks-epos*, 97 etc.) also interpret "giant," Möller giving an impossible mythological explanation, which was, at the time, widely followed.

<sup>2</sup> Like *oznum*, *nefenum* (cf. Sievers, § 277, Anm. 1).

<sup>3</sup> I do not attach much importance to the argument which might be drawn from the statement of Binz (*P B B* XX, 185) that the evidence of proper names shows that in the Hampshire district (which was colonized by Jutes) the legend of *Finnsburg* was particularly remembered. For on the other hand, as Binz points out, similar evidence is markedly lacking for Kent. And why, indeed, should the Jutes have specially commemorated a legend in which their part appears not to have been a very creditable one?

(1) We should gather from *Widsith* that the Jutes were concerned in the *Finnsburg* business. For in that poem generally (though not always) tribes connected in story are grouped together, and the Jutes and Frisians are so coupled:

ȳtum [weold] Gefwulf  
Fin Folcwalding Frēasna cynne.

(2) There is another passage in *Beowulf* in which *Eotenas* is possibly used in the sense of "Jutes."

We have seen above<sup>1</sup> that according to a Scandinavian tradition Lotharus was exiled in *Jutram* and Heremod, who has been held to be the counterpart of Lotharus

mid Eotenum wearð  
on fēonda geweald forð forlācen

But the identification of Lotharus and Heremod is too hypothetical to carry the weight of much argument.

(3) Finn comes into many Old English pedigrees, which have doubtless borrowed from one another. But the earliest in which we find him, and the only one in which we find his father Folcwald, is that of the Jutish kings of Kent<sup>2</sup>. Here, too, the name Hengest meets us.

The view that the name "Eoten" in the *Finnsburg* story is a form of the word "Jute" is, then, one which is very difficult to reject. It is one which has in the past been held by many scholars and is, I think, held by all who have recently expressed any opinion on the subject<sup>3</sup>. But this renders very difficult the assumption of Bugge and his followers that the word "Eoten" is synonymous with "Frisian<sup>4</sup>." For Frisians were not Jutes.

<sup>1</sup> p. 97, note 2

<sup>2</sup> See above, p. 200. Zimmer, *Nennius Vindictus*, 84, assumes that the Kentish pedigree borrowed these names from the Bernician; but there is no evidence for this.

<sup>3</sup> Among those who have so held are Kemble, Thorpe (*Beowulf*, pp. 76-7), Ettmüller (*Beowulf*, 1840, p. 23), Bouterwek (*Germania*, i, 389), Grein (*Eberts Jahrbuch*, iv, 270), Kohler (*Germania*, xiii, 155), Heyne (in first three editions), Holder (*Beowulf*, p. 128), ten Brink (*Pauls Grdr* (1), ii, 548), Henzel (*A f d A* x, 228), Stevenson (*Asser*, 1904, p. 169), Schücking (*Beowulf*, 1913, p. 321), Klaeber (*J E G Ph* xiv, 545), Lawrence (*Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxx 393), Moorman (*Essays and Studies*, v, 99), Björkman (*Eigenamen im Beowulf*, 21).

<sup>4</sup> So too, with some hesitation, Chadwick (*Origin*, 52-3) with much more hesitation, Bugge (*P B B* xii, 37). Whilst this is passing through the press Holthausen has withdrawn his former interpretation *eotenaf* "enemies," in favour of *Eotena* = *Eotna*, "Jutes" (*Engl Stud* li, 180).

<sup>4</sup> *P B B*. xii, 37.

The tribes were closely related; but the two words were not synonymous. The very lines in *Widsith*, which couple Jutes and Frisians together, as if they were related in story, show that the names were regarded as those of distinct tribes. And this evidence from *Widsith* is very important, because the compiler of that list of names clearly knew the story of Finn and Hnæf.

But this is not the only difficulty in Bugge's interpretation of the Eotens as Frisians. The outbreak of war, we are told, is due to the treachery of the Eotens. This Bugge and his followers interpret as meaning that Finn must have treacherously attacked Hnæf. Yet the poet speaks of "the warriors of Finn when the sudden danger fell upon them" · *þā hīe se fār begeat*. It is essential to *fār* that it signifies a sudden and unexpected attack<sup>1</sup> and the unexpected attack must have come, not upon the assailants but upon the assailed.

Yet this difficulty, though it has been emphasized by Moller<sup>2</sup> and other opponents of Bugge's view, is not insuperable<sup>3</sup>, and I hope to show below that there is no real difficulty. But it leads us to a problem not so easily surmounted. If Finn made a treacherous attack upon Hnæf, and slew him, how did it come that Hengest, and Hnæf's other men, made terms with their murderous host?

In the primitive heathen days it had been a rule that the retainer must not survive his vanquished lord<sup>4</sup>. The ferocity of this rule was subsequently softened, and, in point of fact, we do often hear, after some great leader has been slain, of his followers accepting quarter from a chivalrous foe, without being

<sup>1</sup> The cognate of O E *fār* (Mod Eng "fear") in other Germanic languages, such as Old Saxon and Old High German, has the meaning of "ambush". In the nine places where it occurs in O E verse it has always the meaning of a peril which comes upon one suddenly, and is applied, e g to the Day of Judgement (twice) or some unexpected flood (three times). In compounds *fār* conveys an idea of suddenness "*fār-dēað*, *repentina mors*".

<sup>2</sup> *Volksepös*, 69.

<sup>3</sup> It has been surmounted in two ways. (1) By altering *easferum* to *easferan* (a very slight change) and then making *fār* refer to the final attack upon Finn, in which he certainly was on the defensive (Lawrence, 397 *etc*, Ayres, 284, Trautmann, *BB* II, Klaeber, *Anglia*, xxviii, 443, Holthausen). (2) By making *hīe* refer to *hæleð Hælf-Dena* which follows (Green in *Pub Mod Lang Assoc. Amer* xxxi, 759-97), but this is forced. See also below, p 284.

<sup>4</sup> Cf Tacitus, *Germania*, xiv.



therefore regarded as having acted disgracefully<sup>1</sup>. But, if Finn had invited Hnæf and Hnæf's retainers to be his guests, and had fallen upon them by treachery, the action of the retainers in coming to terms with Finn, in entering his service, and stipulating how much of his pay they shall receive, would be contrary to all standards of conduct as understood in the Heroic Age, and would deprive Hnæf's men of any sympathy the audience might feel for them. But Hnæf's men are not censured they are in fact treated most sympathetically in the *Episode*, and in the *Fragment*, at an earlier point in the story, they are enthusiastically applauded<sup>2</sup>.

It is strange enough in any case that Hnæf's retainers should make terms with the slayer of their lord. But it is not merely strange, it is absolutely unintelligible, if we are to suppose that Finn has not merely slain Hnæf, but has lured him into his power, and then slain him while a guest.

It is to the credit of Bugge that he felt this difficulty but his attempt to explain it is hardly satisfactory. He fell back upon a parallel between the story of the death of Rolf Kraki and the story of *Finnsburg*. We have already seen that the resemblance is very close between the *Bjarkamál*, which narrates the death of Rolf, and the opening of the *Finnsburg Fragment*. The parallel which Bugge invoked comes from the sequel to the Rolf story<sup>3</sup> which tells how Hiarwarus, the murderer of Rolf Kraki, astonished by the devotion of Rolf's retainers, lamented their death, and said how gladly he would have given quarter to such men, and taken them into his service. Thereupon Wiggo, the one survivor, who had previously vowed to avenge his lord, and had concealed himself with that object, came forward and offered to accept these terms. Accordingly he placed his hand upon the hilt of his new master's drawn sword, as if about to swear fealty to him but instead of swearing, he ran him through.

"Glorious and ever memorable hero, who valiantly kept his vow," says Saxo<sup>4</sup>. Whether or no we share the exultation of

<sup>1</sup> For examples of this see pp 278-82 below.

<sup>2</sup> *Fragment*, 40-1.

<sup>3</sup> Book II (ed. Holder, p 67).

<sup>4</sup> See above, p 30.

that excellent if somewhat bloodthirsty ecclesiastic, we must admit that Wiggo's methods were sensible and practical. If, singlehanded, he was to keep his vow, and avenge his lord, he could only hope to do it by some such stratagem.

Bugge tries to explain Hengest's action on similar lines: "He does not hesitate to enter the service of Finn in order thereby to carry out his revenge<sup>1</sup>."

But the circumstances are entirely different. Wiggo was left alone, the only survivor of Rolf's household, to face a whole army. But Hengest is no single survivor: he and his fellows have made so good a defence that Finn cannot overcome them by conflict on the *meðel-stede*. Not only so, but, if we accept the interpretation that almost every critic and editor has put upon the passage (ll. 1184-5), Hengest's position is even stronger. Finn has lost almost all his thegns, the usual interpretation puts him at the mercy of Hengest: at best it is a draw<sup>2</sup>. If, then, Hengest wants vengeance upon Finn, why does he not pursue it? Instead of which, according to Bugge, he enters Finn's service in order that he may get an opportunity for revenge.

And note, that Wiggo did not swear the oath of fealty to the murderer of his master Rolf: he merely put himself in the posture to do so, and then, instead, ran the tyrant through forthwith. But Hengest *does* swear the oath, and *does not* forthwith slay the tyrant. He spends the winter with him, receives a sword from Hunlafing, after which his name does not occur again. Finn is ultimately slain, but the names which are found in that connection are those of Guthlaf and Oslaf [Ordlaf].

So Bugge's explanation comes to this: Hengest is fighting with success against Finn, but he refrains from vengeance. Instead, he treacherously enters his service in order that he may take an opportunity of vengeance, which opportunity, however, it is never made clear to us that he takes.

Had Hengest been a man of that kind, he would not have been a hero of Old English heroic song.

<sup>1</sup> *P B B.* xii, 34

<sup>2</sup> For a discussion of the interpretation of the difficult *forþbrigan*, see Carlton Brown in *MLN.* xxxiv, 181-3

## SECTION VI. RECENT ELUCIDATIONS.

## PROF AYRES' COMMENTS

It is one of the merits of Bugge's view—one of the proofs of its general soundness—that it admits of successive improvements at the hands of succeeding commentators. No one has done more in this way than has Prof Ayres to clear up the story, particularly the latter part of the *Episode*. Ayres evolves unity out of what had been before “a rapid-fire of events that hit all around a central tragic situation and do not once touch it.” Hengest does not, Ayres thinks, enter the service of Finn with any such well-formed plan of revenge as Bugge had attributed to him. Hengest was in a difficult situation. It is his mental conflict, “torn between his oath to Finn and his duty to the dead Hnæf,” which gives unity to all that follows. It is a tragedy of Hengest, hesitating, like Shakespeare's Hamlet, over the duty of revenge. Prof Ayres' statement here is too good to summarize, it must be quoted at length

“How did he feel during that long, blood-stained winter? He naturally thought about home (*earð gemunde*, 1129), but there was no question of sailing then, no need yet of decision while the storm roared outside. By and by spring came round, as it has a way of doing. How did he feel then? Then, like any other Northerner, he wanted to put to sea

fundode wrecca,

gist of geardum

That is what he would naturally do. He would speak to Finn and be off, in the spring his business was on the sea. That is all right as to Finn, but as to the dead Hnæf it is very like running away, it is postponing vengeance sadly. Will he prove so unpregnant of his cause as that? No, though he would like to go to sea, he thought *rather* of vengeance, and staid in the hope of managing a successful surprise against Finn and his people.

	hē tō gyrn-wræce
swiðor þōhte	þonne tō sē-lāde,
gif hē torn-gemōt	purhtēon miht,
þæt hē Eotena bēarn	inne gemunde

All this says clearly that Hengest was thinking things over, whether he should or should not take vengeance upon Finn, it tells us also very clearly, with characteristic anticipation of the outcome of the story, that in the end desire for vengeance carried the day.

Swā hē ne-forwyrnde      worold-rædenne,

he did not *thus* prove recreant to his duty. But we have not been told the steps by which Hengest arrived at his decision. That seems

to be what we should naturally want to know at this point, and that is precisely what we are about to be told. Occasions gross as earth informed against him<sup>1</sup>”

Then Ayres goes on to explain the “egging,” through the presentation of a sword by Hunlafing. This feature of the story is now pretty generally so understood; but Ayres has an interpretation of the part played by Guthlaf and Oslaf, which is new and enlightening

“Hengest’s almost blunted purpose was not whetted by Hunlafing alone. The latter’s uncles, Guðlaf and Oslaf [Ordlaf] took occasion to mention to Hengest the fierce attack (the one, presumably, in which Hnæf had fallen), cast up to him all the troubles that had befallen them ever since their disastrous sea-journey to Finnsburg, they had plenty of woes to twit him with.

siððan grimne gripe      Guðlāf and Ōslāf  
æfter sæ-siðe      sorge mændon,  
æt witon wēana dæl.

The effect of all this on Hengest is cumulative. Where he was before in perfect balance, he is now wrought to action by the words of his followers, he can control himself no longer, the balance is destroyed. The restless spirit (Hengest’s in the first instance, but it may be thought of as referring to the entire attacking party, now of one mind) could no longer restrain itself within the breast

ne meahste wæfre mōd

forhabban in hreðre.

Vengeance wins the day<sup>2</sup>”

By this interpretation Ayres has, as he claims, “sharpened some of the features” of the current interpretation of the Finn story. For, as he says, “in some respects the current version was very unsatisfactory, there seemed to be little relation between the presentation of the sword to Hengest and the spectacle of Guðlaf and Oslaf howling their complaints in the face of Finn”

That Ayres’ interpretation enhances the coherency of the story is beyond dispute that it does so at the cost of putting some strain upon the text in one or two places may perhaps be urged<sup>3</sup>. But that in its main lines it is correct seems to me certain: the story of Finnsburg is the tragedy of Hengest—his hesitation and his revenge. If we keep this well in view, many of the difficulties disappear.

<sup>1</sup> *JEGPh* xvi, 291-2

<sup>2</sup> *Ib* 293-4

<sup>3</sup> I wish I could feel convinced, with Ayres, that the person whom Guthlaf and Oslaf blame for their woes is Hengest rather than Finn. Such an interpretation renders the story so much more coherent, but if the poet really meant this, he assuredly did not make his meaning quite clear.

## SECTION VII. PROBLEMS STILL OUTSTANDING

Many of the difficulties disappear, but the two big ones remain. Firstly, if "Eoten" means "Jute," as it is usually agreed that it does, why should the Frisians be called Jutes, seeing that a Frisian is not a Jute? Secondly, when Hengest and the other thegns of Hnæf enter the service of the slayer of their lord, they are not blamed for so doing, but rather excused, *pā him swā geþearfod wæs*. Such a situation is unusual, but it becomes incredible if that slayer, whose service they enter, had fallen upon and slain their lord by treachery, when his guest

It seems to me that neither of these difficulties is really inherent in the situation, but rather accidental, and owing to the way Bugge's theory, right enough in its main lines, has been presented both by Bugge and his followers. For it is not necessary to assume that Frisians are called *Eotenas* or Jutes. All that we are justified in deducing from the text is that Frisians and *Eotenas* are both under the command of Finn. If we suppose what the text demands, *and no more*, we are at one stroke relieved of both our difficulties. Though "Jute" can hardly have been synonymous with "Frisian," nothing is more probable, as I shall try to show<sup>1</sup>, than that a great Frisian king should have had a tribe of Jutes subject to him, or should have had in his pay a band of Jutish mercenaries. Now if the trouble was due to these "Eotens"—and we are told that it was<sup>2</sup>—our second difficulty is also solved. It would be much more natural for Hengest to come to terms with Finn, albeit the *bana* of his lord, if Finn's conduct had not been stained by treachery, and if the blame for the original attack did not rest with him.

And, as I have said, there is nothing in the text which justifies us in assuming that *Eotenas* means "Frisians" and that therefore *Eotena trēowe* refers to Finn's breach of faith. It has indeed been argued that *Eotenas* and Frisians are synonymous,

<sup>1</sup> See below, pp. 276, 288-9

<sup>2</sup> *Ne hūru Hildeburh herian þorfte*  
*Eotena trēowe*

because in the terms of peace, whilst it is stipulated that Hengest and his comrades are to have equal control with the *Eotena bearn*, it is further stipulated that Finn is to give Hengest's men gifts equal to those which he gives to the *Frēsena cynn*<sup>1</sup>. Here then *Eotena bearn* and *Frēsena cynn* are certainly parallel, and are both contrasted with Hengest and his troops. But surely this in no wise proves *Eotena bearn* and *Frēsena cynn* synonymous they may equally well be different sections of Finn's host, just as in *Brunanburh* the soldiers of Athelstan are spoken of first as *West-saxe*, and then as *Myrce*. Are we to argue that West-Saxons are Mercians? So in the account of Hygelac's fatal expedition<sup>2</sup> the opponents are called Franks, Frisians, *Hūgas*, *Hetware*. A reader ignorant of the story might suppose these all synonymous terms for one tribe. But we know that they are not the *Hetware* were the people immediately attacked—the Frankish overlord hastened to the rescue, and was apparently helped by the neighbouring Frisians, who although frequently at this date opposed to the Franks, would naturally make common cause against the pirate from overseas<sup>3</sup>.

It was quite natural that the earlier students of the *Finnsborg Episode*, thinking of the two opposing forces as two homogeneous tribes, and finding mention of three tribal names, Danes, Eotens and Frisians, should have assumed that the Eotens must be exactly synonymous with either Danes or Frisians. But it is now recognized that the conditions of the time postulate not so much tribes as groups of tribes<sup>4</sup>. In the *Fragment* we have, on the side of the Danes, *Sigferth*, prince of the *Secgan*. The *Secgan* are not necessarily Danes, because their lord is fighting on the Danish side. Neither need the *Eotenas* be Frisians, because they are fighting on the Frisian side.

We cannot, then, argue that two tribes are identical, because engaged in fighting a common foe. still less, because they are

<sup>1</sup> Ayres, in *J E G. Ph* xvi, 286. So Lawrence in a private communication  
<sup>2</sup> II 2910, etc

<sup>3</sup> We can construct the situation from such historical information as we can get from Gregory of Tours and other sources. The author of *Beowulf* may not have been clear as to the exact relation of the different tribes. We cannot tell, from the vague way he speaks, how much he knew.

<sup>4</sup> I have argued this at some length below, but I do not think anyone would deny it. Bugge recognized it to be true (*P B B* xii, 29-30) as does Lawrence (392). See below, pp 288-9.

mentioned with a certain parallelism<sup>1</sup>. And anyway, it is impossible to find in the use of the expression *Eotena bearn* in l. 1088 any support for the interpretation which makes *Eotena trēowe* signify the treachery of Finn himself. For, assuredly, the proviso that Hengest and his fellows are to have half control as against the *Eotena bearn* does not mean that they are to have half control as against Finn himself. For the very next lines make it clear that they are to enter Finn's service and become his retainers. That Hengest and his men are to have equal rights with Finn's Jutish followers (*Eotena bearn*) is reasonable enough. but they obviously have not equal rights with Finn, their lord whom they are now to follow. *Eotena bearn* in l. 1088, then, does *not* include Finn. how *can* it then be used as an argument that *Eotena trēowe* must refer to *Finn's* faith and his breach of it?

Finn, then, is the *bana* of Hnæf, but there is nothing in the text which compels us to assume that he is the slayer of his guest.

The reader may regard my zeal to clear the character of Finn as excessive. But it is always worth while to understand a good old tale. And it is only when we withdraw our unjust aspersions upon Finn's good faith that the tale becomes intelligible.

This, I know, has been disputed, and by the scholars whose opinion I most respect.

The poet tells us that Finn was the *bana* of Hnæf, so, says Ayres, "it is hard to see how it helps matters<sup>2</sup>" to argue that Finn was not guilty of treachery. And Lawrence argues in the same way

"How is it possible to shift the blame for the attack from Finn to the Eotenas when Finn is called the *bana* of Hnæf? It does not matter whether he killed him with his own hands or not, he is clearly held responsible, the lines tell us it was regarded as disgraceful for the

<sup>1</sup> We can never argue that words are synonymous because they are parallel. Compare Psalm cxiv, in the first verse the parallel words are synonymous, but in the second and third not.

"When Israel came out of Egypt and the house of Jacob from among the strange people" [Israel = house of Jacob Egypt = strange people]

"Judah was His sanctuary and Israel His dominion" [Judah is only one of the tribes of Israel]

"The sea saw that and fled Jordan was driven back" [The Red Sea and Jordan are distinct, though parallel, examples]

<sup>2</sup> *J.E.G. Ph.* xvi, 288

Danes to have to follow him, and the revenge at the end falls heavily upon him. The insult and hurt to Danish pride would be very little lessened by the assumption that someone else started the quarrel, and for this assumption, too, the lines give no warrant<sup>1</sup> "

Let us take these objections in turn. I do not see how the fact that Finn is called the *bana* of Hnæf can prove *anything* as to "the blame for the attack" Of course the older editors may have thought so. Kemble translates *bana* "slaughterer," which implies brutality, and perhaps culpability. Bosworth-Toller renders *bana* "murderer," which certainly implies blame for attack. But we know that these are mere mistranslations. Nothing as to "blame for attack" is implied in the term *bana*. "*bana* 'slayer' is a perfectly neutral word, and must not be translated by 'murderer,' or any word connoting criminality. A man who slays another in self-defence, or in righteous execution of the law, is still his 'bane'<sup>2</sup> " Everyone admits this to be true and yet at the same time *bana* is quoted to prove that Finn is to blame, because, for want of a better word, we half-consciously render *bana* "murderer" and "murderer" *does* imply blame. "Words," says Bacon, "as a Tartar's bow, do shoot back upon the understanding of the wisest" "

Lawrence continues. "The lines tell us that it was regarded as disgraceful for the Danes to have to follow him" But surely this is saying too much That the Frisians are not to taunt the Danes with following the slayer of their lord is only one of two possible interpretations of the ll 1101-3. And even if we accept this interpretation, it does not follow that the Danes are regarded as having done anything with which they can be *justly* taunted. It is part of the settlement between Gunnar and Njal, that Njal's sons are not to be taunted if a man repeats the taunts he shall fall unavenged<sup>3</sup>. Surely a man may be touchy about being taunted, without being regarded as having done anything disgraceful. Indeed, in our case, the poet implies that taunts would *not* be just, *pā him swā gefearfod wæs* But, as I try to show below, no *pearf* could have excused the submission of retainers to a foe who had just slain their lord by deliberate treachery.

<sup>1</sup> *Puð Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxx, 430

<sup>2</sup> Plummer, *Two Saxon Chronicles Parallel*, II, 47.

<sup>3</sup> *Njáls Saga*, cap 45.



"The revenge at the end falls heavily upon Finn." It does; as so often happens where the feud is temporarily patched up, it breaks out again, as in the stories of Alboin, Ingeld or Bolli. But this does not prove that the person upon whom the revenge ultimately falls heavily had been a guest-slayer. The possibility of even temporary reconciliation rather implies the reverse.

"The insult and hurt to Danish pride would be very little lessened by the assumption that someone else [than Finn] started the quarrel, and for this assumption, too, the lines give no warrant." But they *do* for they tell us that it was due to the bad faith of the Eotens. Commentators may argue, if they will, that "Eotens" means Finn. But the weight of proof lies on them, and they have not borne it, or seriously attempted to bear it.

#### SECTION VIII. THE WEIGHT OF PROOF: THE EOTENS

Finn is surely entitled to be held innocent till he can be proved guilty. And the argument for his guilt comes to this: the trouble was due to the bad faith of the Eotens. "Eotens" means "Jutes" "Jutes" means "Frisians" "Frisians" means "Finn" therefore the trouble was due to the treachery of Finn.

Now I agree that it is probable that *Eotenas* means Jutes, and, as I have said, there is nothing improbable in a Frisian king having had a clan of Jutes, or a body of Jutish mercenaries, subject to him. But that the Frisians as a whole should be called Jutes is, *per se*, exceedingly improbable, and we have no shadow of evidence for it. Lawrence tries to justify it by the authority of Siebs

"Siebs, perhaps the foremost authority on Frisian conditions, conjectures that the occupation by the Frisians of Jutish territory after the conquest of Britain assisted the confusion between the two names"

But *did* the Frisians occupy Jutish territory? When we ask what is Siebs' authority for the hypothesis that Frisians occupied Jutish territory, we find it to be this. that because in *Beowulf* "Jute" means "Frisian," some such event must have taken place to account for this nomenclature<sup>1</sup>. So it comes to this: the Frisians must have been called Jutes, because they occupied

<sup>1</sup> *Pauls Grdr* (2), II, 524.

Jutish territory: the Frisians must have occupied Jutish territory because they are called Jutes. I do not think we could have a better example of what Prof. Tupper calls "philological legend."

Siebs rejects Bede's statement, which places the Jutes in what is now Jutland: he believes them to have been immediately adjacent to the Frisians. For this belief that the Jutes were immediate neighbours of the Frisians there is, of course, some support, though not of a very convincing kind. but\*the belief that the Frisians occupied the territory of these adjacent Jutes rests, so far as I know, solely upon this identification of the *Eotenas*-Jutes with the Frisians, which it is then in turn used to prove.

But if by Jutes we understand (following Bede) a people dwelling north of the Angles, in or near the peninsula of Jutland, then it is of course true that (at a much later date) a colony of Frisians *did* occupy territory which is near Jutland, and which is sometimes included in the name "Jutland." But, as I have tried to show above, this "North Frisian" colony belongs to a period much later than that of the Finn-story. we have no reason whatever to suppose that the Frisians of the Finn story are the North Frisians of Sylt and the adjoining islands and mainland—the *Frisiones qui habitabant Juthlandre*<sup>1</sup>.

And when we have assumed, without evidence, that, at the period with which we are dealing, Frisians had occupied Jutish territory, we are then further asked to assume that, from this settlement in Jutish territory, such Frisians came to be called Jutes. Now this is an hypothesis *per se* conceivable, but very improbable. Throughout the whole Heroic Age, for a thousand years after the time of Tacitus, Germanic tribes were moving, and occupying the territory of other people. During this period, how many instances can we find in which a tribe took the name of the people whose territory it occupied? Even where the name of the new home is adopted, the old tribal name is *not* adopted. For instance, the Bavarians occupied the territory of the Celtic Boii, but they did not call themselves Boii, but Bai(haim)varu, "the dwellers in the land of the Bou"—a very

<sup>1</sup> Helmholtz.

different thing. In the same way the Jutes who settled in the land of the Cantu did not call themselves *Kente*, but *Cantware*, "dwellers in Cantum" Of course, where the old name of a country survives, it does often *in the long run* come to be applied to its new inhabitants, but this takes many ages It was not till a good thousand years after the English had conquered the land of the Britons, that Englishmen began to speak and think of themselves as "Britons." In feudal or 18th century days all the subjects of the ruler of Britain, Prussia, Austria, may come to be called British, Prussians, Austrians But this is no argument for the period with which we are dealing The assumption, then, that a body of Frisians, simply because they inhabited land which had once been inhabited by Jutes, should have called themselves Jutes, is so contrary to all we know of tribal nomenclature at this date, that one could only accept it if compelled by very definite evidence to do so And of such evidence there is no scrap<sup>1</sup>. Neither is there a scrap of evidence for the underlying hypothesis that any Frisians *were* settled at this date in Jutish territory

And as if this were not hypothetical enough, a further hypothesis has then to be built upon it viz, that this name "Jutes," belonging to such of the Frisians as had settled in Jutish territory, somehow became applicable to Frisians as a whole Now this might conceivably have happened, but only as a result of certain political events If the Jutish Frisians had become the governing element in Frisia, it would be conceivable But after all, we know something about Frisian history, and I do not

<sup>1</sup> I know of only one parallel for such assumed adoption of a name that also concerns the Jutes The Angles, says Bede, dwelt between the Saxons and Jutes the Jutes must, then, according to Bede, have dwelt north of the Angles, since the Saxons dwelt south But the people north of the Angles are now, and have been from early times, Scandinavian in speech, whilst the Jutes who settled Kent obviously were not The best way of harmonizing known linguistic facts with Bede's statement is, then, to assume that Scandinavians settled in the old continental home of these Jutes and took over their name, whilst introducing the Scandinavian speech

Now many scholars have regarded this as so forced and unlikely an explanation that they reject it, and refuse to believe that the Jutes who settled Kent can have dwelt north of the Angles, in spite of Bede's statement If we are asked to reject the "Scandinavian-Jute" theory, as too unlikely on *a priori* grounds, although it is demanded by the express evidence of Bede, it is surely absurd to put forward a precisely similar theory in favour of "Frisian-Jutes" upon no evidence at all.

think we are at liberty to assume any such changes as would have enabled the Frisian people, as a whole, to be called Jutes. How is it that we never get any hint anywhere of this Jutish preponderance and Jutish ascendancy?

The argument that the "treachery of the Jutes" means the treachery of Finn, King of the Frisians, has, then, no support at all.

One further argument there is, for attributing treason to Finn.

It has been urged that in other stories a husband entraps and betrays the brother of his wife. But we are not justified in reading pieces of one story into another, unless we believe the two stories to be really connected. The Signy of the *Völsunga Saga* has been quoted as a parallel to Hildeburh<sup>1</sup>. Signy leaves the home of her father Volsung and her brother Sigmund to wed King Siggeir. Siggeir invites the kin of his wife to visit him, and then slays Volsung and all his sons, save Sigmund. But it is the difference of the story, rather than its likeness, which is striking. No hint is ever made of any possibility of reconciliation between Siggeir and the kin of the men he has slain. The feud admits of no atonement, and is continued to the utterance. Siggeir's very wife helps her brother Sigmund to his revenge.

How different from the attitude of Sigmund and Signy is the willingness of Hengest to come to terms, and the merely passive and elegiac bearing of Hildeburh! These things do not suggest that we ought to read a King Siggeir treachery into the story of Finn.

Again, the fact that Athelstan entices the brother of his wife into his power, has been urged as a parallel. But surely it is rather unfair to erect this into a kind of standard of conduct for the early Germanic brother-in-law, and to assume as a matter of course that, because Finn is Hnæf's brother-in-law, therefore he must have sought to betray him. The whole atmosphere of the Finn-Hnæf story, with its attempted reconciliation, is as opposed to that of the story of Athelstan as it is to the story of Siggeir.

<sup>1</sup> Koegel (164), Lawrence (382)

The only epithet applied to Finn is *ferhð-freca*, "valiant in soul." Though *freca* is not necessarily a good word, and is applied to the dragon as well as to Beowulf, yet it denotes grim, fierce, almost reckless courage. It does not suggest a traitor who invites his foes to his house, and murders them by night.

I interpret the lines, then, as meaning that the trouble arose from the Jutes, and, since the context shows that these Jutes were on Finn's side, and against the Danes, we must hold them to be a body of Jutes in the service of Finn<sup>1</sup>.

#### SECTION IX. ETHICS OF THE BLOOD FEUD

But, as we have seen, it is objected that this interpretation of the situation, absolving Finn from any charge of treachery or aggression, does not "help matters<sup>2</sup>" Or, as Prof Lawrence puts it, "the hurt to Danish pride [in entering the service of Finn] would be very little lessened by the assumption that someone else [than Finn] started the quarrel."

These objections seem to me to be contrary to the whole spirit of the old heroic literature.

I quite admit that there is a stage in primitive society when the act of slaying is everything, and the circumstances, or motives, do not count. In the Levitical Law, it is taken for granted that, if a man innocently causes the death of another, as for instance if his axe break, and the axe-head accidentally kill his comrade, then the avenger of blood will seek to slay the homicide, just as much as if he had been guilty of treacherous murder. To meet such cases the Cities of Refuge are established, where the homicide may flee till his case can be investigated; but even though found innocent, the homicide may be at once slain by the avenger, should he step outside the City of Refuge. And this "eye for eye" vengeance yields slowly. It took long to establish legally in our own country the distinction between murder and homicide.

<sup>1</sup> Björkman (*Eigennamen im Beowulf*, 23) interprets the *Eotenas* as Jutish subjects of Finn. This suggestion was made quite independently of anything I had written, and confirms me in my belief that it is a reasonable interpretation.

<sup>2</sup> Ayres in *J E G Ph.* xvi, 288

For "The thought of man" it was held "shall not be tried: as the devil himself knoweth not the thought of man." Nevertheless, even the Germanic *wer-gild* system permits consideration of circumstances: it often happens that no *wer-gild* is to be paid because the slain man has been unjust, or the aggressor<sup>1</sup>, or no *wer-gild* will be accepted because the slaying was under circumstances making settlement impossible.

Doubtless in Germanic barbarism there was once a stage similar to that which must have preceded the establishment of the Cities of Refuge in Israel<sup>2</sup>; but that stage had passed before the period with which we are dealing, in the Heroic Age the motive *did* count for a very great deal. Not but what there were still the literal people who insisted upon "an eye for an eye," without looking at circumstances, and these people often had their way, but their view is seldom the one taken by the characters with whom the poet or the saga-man sympathises. These generally hold a more moderate creed. One may almost say that the leading motive in heroic literature is precisely this difference of opinion between the people who hold that under any circumstances it is shameful to come to an agreement with the *bana* of one's lord or friend or kinsman, and the people who are willing *under certain circumstances* to come to such an agreement.

It happens not infrequently that after some battle in which a great chief has been killed, his retainers are offered quarter, and accept it, but I do not remember any instance of their doing this if, instead of an open battle, it is a case of a treacherous attack. The two most famous downfalls of Northern princes afford typical examples after the battle of Svold, Kolbjorn Stallari accepts quarter from Eric, the chivalrous *bani* of his lord Olaf<sup>3</sup>, but Rolf's men refuse quarter after the treacherous murder of their lord by Hiarwarus<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> e.g. *Njáls Saga*, cap 144 *Laxdæla Saga*, cap 51

<sup>2</sup> Of course a primitive stage can be conceived at which homicide is regarded as worse than murder. Your brother shoots A intentionally he must therefore have had good reasons, and you fraternally support him. But you may feel legitimate annoyance if he aims at a stag, and shooting A by mere misadventure, involves you in a blood-feud

<sup>3</sup> *Heimskringla*, *Öl Tryggv* K 111; *Saga Olafs Tryggvasonar*, K 70 (*Fornmanna Sögur*, 1835, x)

<sup>4</sup> Saxo Grammaticus (ed. Holder, p 67).

That men, after a fair fight, could take quarter from, or give it to, those who had slain their lord or closest kinsman, is shown by abundant references in the sagas and histories. For instance, when Eric, after the fight with the Jomsvikings, offers quarter to his prisoners, that quarter is accepted, even though their leaders, their nearest kin, and their friends have been slain. The first to receive quarter is young Sigurd, whose father Bui has just been killed yet the writer obviously does not the less sympathize with Sigurd, or with the other Jomsviking survivors, and feels the action to be generous on the part of Eric, and in no wise base on the part of the Jomsvikings<sup>1</sup>. But this is natural, because the Jomsvikings have just been defeated by Eric in fair fight. It would be impossible, if Eric were represented as a traitor, slaying the Jomsvikings by a treacherous attack, whilst they were his guests. Is it to be supposed that Sigurd, under such circumstances, would have taken quarter from the slayer of Bui his father?

In the *Laxdæla Saga*, Olaf the Peacock, in exacting vengeance for the slaying of his son Kjartan, shows no leniency towards the sons of Osuif, on whom the moral responsibility rests. But he accepts compensation in money from Bolli, who had been drawn into the feud against his will. Yet Bolli was the actual slayer of Kjartan, and he had taken the responsibility as such<sup>2</sup>. And Olaf is not held to have lowered himself by accepting a money payment as atonement from the slayer of his son—on the contrary “he was considered to have grown in reputation” from having thus spared Bolli. But after Olaf’s death, the feud bursts out again, and revenge in the end falls heavily upon Bolli<sup>3</sup>, as it does upon Finn.

On this question a fairly uniform standard of feeling will be found from the sixth century to the thirteenth. That it *does* make all the difference in composing a feud, whether the slaying from which the feud arises was treacherous or not, can be abundantly proved from many documents, from Paul the Deacon, and possibly earlier, to the Icelandic Sagas. Such composition of feuds may or may not be lasting; it may or may

<sup>1</sup> *Hermakringla*, Ól. Tryggv. K. 41.

<sup>2</sup> *Lýstir vígrs á hendr sér* *Laxdæla Saga*, cap. 49.

<sup>3</sup> Cap. 55.

not expose to taunt those who make it, but the questions which arise are precisely these: Who started the quarrel? Was the slaying fair or treacherous? Upon the answer depends the possibility of atonement. There may be some insult and hurt to a man's pride in accepting atonement, even in cases where the other side has much to say for itself. But if the slaying has been fair, composition is felt to be possible, though not without danger of the feud breaking out afresh.

Prof. Lawrence has suggested that perhaps, in the original version of the *Finnsburg* story, the Danes were reduced to greater straits than is represented to be the case in the extant *Beowulf Episode*. He thinks that it is "almost incomprehensible" that Hengest should make terms with Finn, if he had really reduced Finn and his thegns to such a degree of helplessness as the words of the *Episode* state. It seems to me that the matter depends much more upon the treachery or the honesty of Finn. If Finn was guilty of treachery and slaughter of his guests, then it is "unintelligible" that Hengest should spare him but if Finn was really a respectable character, then the fact that Hengest was making headway against him is rather a reason why Hengest should be moderate, than otherwise. To quote the *Laxdæla Saga* again: though Olaf the Peacock lets off Bolli, the *bani* of his son Kjartan, with a money payment, he makes it clear that he is master of the situation, before he shows this mercy. Paradoxical as it sounds, it was often easier for a man to show moderation in pursuing a blood feud, just because he was in a strong position. It is so again in the *Saga of Thorstein the White*. But the adversary must be one who deserves to be treated with moderation.

Of course it is quite possible that Prof. Lawrence is right, and that in some earlier and more correct version the Danes may have been represented as so outnumbered by the Frisians that they had no choice except to surrender to Finn, and enter his service, or else to be destroyed. But, whether this be so or no, all parallel incidents in the old literature show that their choice between these evil alternatives will depend upon whether Finn, the *bani* of their lord, slew that lord by deliberate and premeditated treachery whilst he was his guest, or whether he



was embroiled with him through the fault of others, under circumstances which were perfectly honourable. If the latter is the case, then Hnæf's men *might* accept quarter. Their position is comparable with that of Illugi at the end of the *Grettis Saga*<sup>1</sup>. Illugi is a prisoner in the hands of the slayers of Grettir, and he charges them with having overcome Grettir, when already on the point of death from a mortifying wound, which they had inflicted on him by sorcery and enchantment. The slayers propose to Illugi terms parallel to those made to the retainers of Hnæf "I will give thee thy life," says their leader, "if thou wilt swear to us an oath not to take vengeance on any of those who have been in this business "

Now, note the answer of Illugi "That might have seemed to me a matter to be discussed, if Grettir had been able to defend himself, and if ye had overcome him with valour and courage, but now it is not to be looked for that I will save my life by being such a coward as art thou In a word, no man shall be more harmful to thee than I, if I live, *for never can I forget how it was that ye have vanquished Grettir*. Much rather, then, do I choose to die "

Now of course it would have been an "insult and hurt" to the pride of Illugi, or of any other decent eleventh century Ice-lander, to have been compelled to swear an oath not to avenge his brother, even though that brother had been slain in the most chivalrous way possible, and it would doubtless have been a hard matter, even in such a case, for Illugi to have kept his oath, had he sworn it. But the treachery of the opponents puts an oath out of the question, just as it must have done in the case of the followers of King Cynewulf<sup>2</sup> or of Rolf Kraki, and as it must have done in the case of the followers of Hnæf, had the slaying of Hnæf been a premeditated act of treachery on the part of Finn.

In the *Njáls Saga*, Flosi has to take up the feud for the slain Hauskuld. Flosi is a moderate and reasonable man, so the first thing he does is to enquire into the *circumstances* under which Hauskuld was slain Flosi finds that the circumstances, and the outrageous conduct of the slayers, give him no choice

<sup>1</sup> Cap. 85.<sup>2</sup> *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, anno 755.

but to prosecute the feud. So in the end he burns Njal's hall, and in it the child of Kari.

Now to have burned a man's child to death might well seem a deed impossible of atonement. Yet in the end Flosi and Kari are reconciled by a full atonement, *the father of the slain child actually taking the first step*<sup>1</sup>. And all this is possible because Flosi and Kari recognise that each has been trying to play his part with justice and fairness, and that each is dragged into the feud through the fault of others. When Flosi has said of his enemy, "I would that I were altogether such a man as Kari is," we feel that reconciliation is in sight.

Very similar is the reconciliation between Alboin and Thurisind in Longobard story, but with this difference, that here it is Alboin who seeks reconciliation by going to the hall of the man whose son he has slain, thus reversing the parts of Flosi and Kari, and reconciliation is possible—just barely possible.

Again, when Bothvar comes to the hall of Rolf, and slays one of Rolf's retainers, the other retainers naturally claim full vengeance. Rolf insists upon investigating the *circumstances*. When he learns that it was his own man who gave the provocation, he comes to terms with the slayer.

Of course it was a difficult matter, and one involving a sacrifice of their pride, for the retainers of Hnæf to come to any composition with the *bana* of their lord; but it is not unthinkable, if the quarrel was started by Finn's subordinates without his consent, and if Finn himself fought fair. But had the slaying been an act of premeditated treachery on the part of Finn, the atonement would, I submit, have been not only difficult but impossible. If the retainers of Hnæf had had such success as our poem implies, then their action under such circumstances is, as Lawrence says, "almost incomprehensible." If they did it under compulsion, and fear of death, then their action would be contrary to all the ties of Germanic honour, and would entirely deprive them of any sympathy the audience might otherwise have felt for them. Yet it is quite obvious that the retainers of Hnæf are precisely the people with whom the audience is expected to sympathise<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *Njáls Saga*, cap. 158.

<sup>2</sup> *Fragment*, ll. 40-1.

In any case, the feud was likely enough to break out again, as it did in the case of Alboin and Thurisind, and equally in that of Hrothgar and Ingeld.

Indeed, the different versions of the story of the feud between the house of Hrothgar and the house of Froda are very much to the point.

Much the oldest version—probably in its main lines quite historical—is the story as given in *Beowulf*. Froda has been slain by the Danes in pitched battle. Subsequently Hrothgar, upon whom, as King of the Danes, the responsibility for meeting the feud has devolved, tries to stave it off by wedding his daughter Freawaru to Ingeld, son of Froda. The sympathy of the poet is obviously with the luckless pair, Ingeld and Freawaru, involved as they are in ancient hatreds which are not of their making. For it is foreseen how some old warrior, who cannot forget his loyalty to his former king, will stir up the feud afresh.

But Saxo Grammaticus tells the story differently. Froda (Frotho) is treacherously invited to a banquet, and then slain. By this treachery the whole atmosphere of the story is changed. Ingeld (Ingellus) marries the daughter of his father's slayer, and, for this, the old version reproduced by Saxo showers upon him literally scores of phrases of scorn and contempt. The whole interest of the story now centres not in the recreant Ingeld or his wife of treacherous race, but in the old warrior Starkad, whose spirit and eloquence is such that he can bring Ingeld to a sense of his "vast sin<sup>1</sup>," can burst the bonds of his iniquity, and at last compel him to take vengeance for his father.

In the *Saga of Rolf Kraki* the story of Froda is still further changed. It is a tale not only of treachery but also of slaying of kin. Consequently the idea of any kind of atonement, however temporary, has become impossible, there is no hint of it.

Now the whole atmosphere of the Hengest-story in *Beowulf* is parallel to that of the *Beowulf* version of the Ingeld-story: agreement is possible, though it does not prove to be permanent. There is room for much hesitation in the minds of Hengest and of Ingeld—they remain the heroes of the story. But if Finn had, as is usually supposed, invited Hnæf to his fort and then

<sup>1</sup> p 213 (ed Holder)

deliberately slain him by treachery, the whole atmosphere would have been different. Hengest could not then be the hero, but the foil the example of a man whose spirit fails at the crisis, who does the utterly disgraceful thing, and enters the service of his lord's treacherous foe. The hero of the story would be some other character—possibly the young Hunlafing, who, loyal in spite of the treachery and cowardice of his leader Hengest, yet, remaining steadfast of soul, is able in the end to infuse his own courage into the heart of the recreant Hengest, and to inspire all the perjured Danish thegns to their final and triumphant revenge on Finn

But that is not how the story is presented

#### SECTION X. AN ATTEMPT AT RECONSTRUCTION

The theory, then, which seems to fit in best with what we know of the historic conditions at the time when the story arose, and which fits in best with such details of the story as we have, is this

Finn, King of Frisia, has a stronghold, Finnsburg, outside the limits of Frisia proper. There several clans and chieftains are assembled<sup>1</sup> Hnæf, Finn's brother-in-law, prince of the Hocings, the Eotens, and Sigferth, prince of the Secgan; whether Sigferth has his retinue with him or no is not clear.

But the treachery of the Eotens causes trouble they have some old feud with Hnæf and his Danes, and attack them by surprise in their hall. There is no proof that Finn has any share in this treason. It is therefore quite natural that in the *Episode*—although the treachery of the Eotens is censured—Finn is never blamed, and that in the *Fragment*, Finn has apparently no share in the attack on the hall, at any rate during those first five days to which the account in the *Fragment* is limited.

The attack is led by Garulf (*Fragment*, l. 20), presumably the prince of the Eotens and some friend or kinsman is urging Garulf not to hazard so precious a life in the first attack. And

<sup>1</sup> Finn may perhaps be holding a meeting of chieftains. For similar meetings of chieftains, compare *Sgrla þátr*, cap. 4, *Laxdæla Saga*, cap. 12, *Skáldskaparmál*, cap. 47 (50)

here, too, the situation now becomes clearer: if Garulf is the chief of the attacking people, we can understand one of his kinsmen or friends expostulating thus: but if he is merely one of a number of subordinates despatched by Finn to attack the hall, the position would not be so easily understood.

Garulf, however, does not heed the warning, and falls, "first of all the dwellers in that land." The *Fragment* breaks off, but the fight goes on we can imagine that matters must have proceeded much as in the great attack upon the hall in the *Nibelungen lied*<sup>1</sup>. One man after another would be drawn in, by the duty of revenge, and Finn's own men would wake to find a battle in progress "The sudden bale (*fær*) came upon them" Finn's son joins in the attack, perhaps in order to avenge some young comrade in arms, and is slain, possibly by Hnæf. Then Finn has to intervene, and Hnæf in turn is slain, possibly, though not certainly, by Finn himself. But Hengest, the thegn of Hnæf, puts up so stout a defence, that Finn is unable to take a full vengeance upon all the Danes. He offers them terms. What are Hengest and the thegns to do?

Finn has slain their lord. But they are Finn's guests, and they have slain Finn's son in his own house. Finn himself is, I take it, blameless. *It is here that the tragic tension comes in.* We can understand how, even if Hengest had Finn in his power, he might well have stayed his hand. So peace is made, and all is to be forgotten: solemn oaths are sworn. And Finn keeps his promise honestly. He resumes his position of host, making no distinction between Eotens, Frisians and Danes, who are all, for the time at least, his followers.

I think we have here a rational explanation of the action of Hengest and the other thegns of Hnæf, in following the slayer of their lord.

The situation resembles that which takes place when Alboin seeks hospitality in the hall of the man whose son he has slain, or when Ingeld is reconciled to Hrothgar. Very similar, too,

<sup>1</sup> There is assuredly a considerable likeness between the Finn story and the *Nibelungen* story: this has been noted often enough. It is more open to dispute whether the likeness is so great as to justify us in believing that the *Nibelungen* story is copied from the Finn story, and may therefore safely be used as an indication how gaps in our existing versions of that story may be filled. See Boer in *Z f d A.* XLVII, 125 etc.

is the temporary reconciliation often brought about in an Icelandic feud by the feeling that the other side has something to say for itself, and that both have suffered grievously. The death of Finn's son is a set off against the death of Hnæf<sup>1</sup>. But, as in the case of Alboin and of Ingeld, or of many an Icelandic Saga, the passion for revenge is too deep to be laid to rest permanently. This is what makes the figure of Hengest tragic, like the figure of Ingeld both have plighted their word, but neither can keep it.

The assembly breaks up. Finn and his men go back to Friesland, and Hengest accompanies them. Of the other Danish survivors nothing is said for the moment whatever longings they may have had for revenge, the poet concentrates all for the moment in the figure of Hengest.

Hengest spends the winter with Finn, but he cannot quiet his conscience and in the end, he accepts the gift of a sword from a young Danish prince Hunlafing, who is planning revenge. The uncles of Hunlafing, Guthlaf and Oslaf [Ordlaf], had been in the hall when it was attacked, and had survived. It is possible that the young prince's father, Hunlaf, was slain then, and that his son is therefore recognised as having the nominal leadership in the operations of vengeance<sup>2</sup>. Hengest, by accepting the sword, promises his services in the work of revenge, and makes a great slaughter of the treacherous Eotens. Perhaps he so far respects his oath that he leaves the simultaneous attack upon Finn to Guthlaf and Oslaf [Ordlaf]. Here we should have an explanation of *swylce* "in like wise"<sup>3</sup>, and also an explanation of the omission of Hengest's name from the final act, the slaying of Finn himself. Hengest made the Eotens

<sup>1</sup> The fact that both sides have suffered about equally facilitates a settlement in the Teutonic feud, just as it does among the Afroids or the Albanians at the present day.

<sup>2</sup> The situation would then be parallel to that in *Laxdæla Saga*, cap. 60-5, where the boy Thorleik, aged fifteen, is nominally in command of the expedition which avenges his father Bolli, but is only able to accomplish his revenge by enlisting the great warrior Thorgils, who is the real leader of the raid.

<sup>3</sup> Bugge (*P B B* xii, 36) interpreted this *swylce* as meaning that sword-bale came upon Finn in like manner as it had previously come upon Hnæf. But this is to make *swylce* in l. 1146 refer back to the death of Hnæf mentioned (72 lines previously) in l. 1074. Møller (*Volksepos*, 67) tries to explain *swylce* by supposing the passage it introduces to be a fragment detached from its context.

feel the sharpness of his sword: and in like wise Guthlaf and Oslaf conducted their part of the campaign. Of course this is only a guess, but it is very much in the manner of the Heroic Age to get out of a difficulty by respecting the letter of an oath whilst breaking its spirit—just as Hogni and Gunnar arrange that the actual slaying of Sigurd shall be done by Guttorm, who had not personally sworn the oath, as they had

#### SECTION XI. GEFWULF, PRINCE OF THE JUTES

Conclusive external evidence in favour of the view just put forward we can hardly hope for for this reason, amongst others, that the names of the actors in the Finn tragedy are corrupted and obscured in the different versions. Hnæf and Hengest are too well known to be altered but most of the other names mentioned in the *Fragment* do not agree with the forms given in other documents. Sigferth is the Sæferth of *Widsuth* the Ordlaif (correct) of the *Fragment* is the Oslof of the *Episode*. The first Guthlaf is confirmed by the Guthlaf of the *Episode*. The other names, the second Guthlaf, Eaha and Guthere, we cannot control from other sources but they have all, on various grounds, been suspected.

Tribal names are equally varied. Sigferth's people, the Secgan, are called Sycgan in *Widsuth*. And he would be a bold man who would deny (what almost all students of the subject hold) that *Eotena*, *Eotenum* in the *Episode* is yet another scribal error the copyist had before him the Anglian form, *eotna*, *eotnum*, and miswrote *eotena*, *eotenum*, when he should have written the West-Saxon equivalent of the tribal name, *Ƞtēna*, *Ƞtūm*—the name we get in *Widsuth*

Ƞtūm [weold] Gefwulf

Fin Folcwalding Frēsna cynne

But in *Widsuth* names of heroes and tribes are grouped together (often, but not invariably) according as they are related in story. Consequently Gefwulf is probably (not certainly) a hero of the Finn story. What part does he play? If, as I have been trying to show, the Jutes are the aggressors, then, as their chief, Gefwulf would probably be the leader of the attack upon the hall.

This part, in the *Fragment*, is played by Garulf.

Now *Gārulf* is not *Gefwulf*, and I am not going to pretend that it is. But *Gārulf* is very near *Gefwulf*. and (what is important) more so in Old English script than in modern script<sup>1</sup> It stands to *Gefwulf* in exactly the same relation as *Heregār* to *Heorogār* or *Sigeferð* to *Sæferð* or *Ordlāf* to *Ōslāf*. that is to say the initial letter and the second element are identical. And no serious student, I think, doubts that *Heregār* and *Heorogār*, or *Sigeferð* and *Sæferð*, or *Ordlāf* and *Ōslāf* are merely corruptions of one name. And if it be admitted to be probable that *Gefwulf* is miswritten for *Gārulf*, then the theory that Garulf was prince of the Jutes, and the original assailant of Hnæf, in addition to being the only theory which satisfactorily explains the internal evidence of the *Fragment* and the *Episode*, has also powerful external support

## SECTION XII. CONCLUSION

But, apart from any such confirmation, I think that the theory offers an explanation of the known facts of the case, and that it is the only theory yet put forward which does. It enables us to solve many minor difficulties that hardly otherwise admit of solution. But, above all, it gives a tragic interest to the story by making the actions of the two main characters, Finn and Hengest, intelligible and human. They are both great chiefs, placed by circumstances in a cruel position. Finn is no longer a treacherous host, plotting the murder of his guests, without even having the courage personally to superintend the dirty work. and Hengest is not guilty of the shameful act of entering the service of a king who had slain his lord by treachery when a guest. The tale of *Finnsburg* becomes one of tragic misfortune besetting great heroes—a tale of the same type as the stories of *Thurisind* or *Ingeld*, of *Sigurd* or *Theodric*

<sup>1</sup> f, r, s, þ, w, p (frrþpp), all letters involving a long down stroke, are constantly confused. For examples, see above, p 245, and of e.g. *Beowulf*, l 2882 (*fergendra* for *wergendra*), *Crist*, 12 (*cræstga* for *cræftga*), *Phænix*, 15 (*fnæft* for *fnæst*), *Riddles III (IV)*, 18 (*þyran* for *þywan*), *XL (XLI)*, 63 (*þyrre* for *þyræ*), *XLII (XLIII)*, 4 (*speop* for *spēow*), 11 (*wææ* for *þææ*), *LVII (LVIII)*, 3 (*rope* for *rōfe* or *rōwe*), etc



## FRISIA IN THE HEROIC AGE

It is now generally recognised that loose confederacies of tribes were, at the period with which we are dealing, very common. Lawrence says this expressly "The actors in this drama are members of two North Sea tribes, or *rather groups of tribes*<sup>1</sup>", and again<sup>2</sup>: "At the time when the present poem was put into shape, we surely have to assume for the Danes and Frisians, not compact and unified political units, but groups of tribes held somewhat loosely together, and sometimes known by tribal names "

This seems to me a quite accurate view of the political situation in the later Heroic Age. The independent tribes, as they existed at the time of Tacitus, tended to coalesce, and from such coalition the nations of modern Europe are gradually evolved. In the seventh and eighth centuries a great king of Northumbria or Frisia is likely to be king, not of one only, but of many allied tribes. I cannot therefore quite understand why some scholars reject so immediately the idea that the Eotens are not necessarily Frisians, but rather a tribe in alliance with the Frisians. For if, as they admit, we are dealing not with two compact units, but with two groups of tribes, why must we assume, as earlier scholars have done, that *Eotenas* must be synonymous either with Frisians or Danes? That assumption is based upon the belief that we are dealing with two compact units. It has no other foundation. I can quite understand Kemble and Ettmüller jumping at the conclusion that the Eotens *must* be identical with the one side or the other. But once we have recognised that confederacies of tribes, rather than individual tribes, are to be expected in the period with which we are dealing, then surely no such assumption should be made.

I think we shall be helped if we try to get some clear idea of the nationalities concerned in the struggle. For to judge by the analogy of other contemporary Germanic stories, there probably is some historic basis for the *Finnsburg* story and even if the fight is purely fictitious, and if Finn Folcwalding never existed, still the Old English poets would represent the fictitious Frisian king in the light of what they knew of contemporary kings.

Now the Frisians were no insignificant tribe. They were a power, controlling the coasts of what was then called the "*Frisian Sea*"<sup>3</sup>. Commerce was in Frisian hands. Archaeological evidence points to a lively trade between the Frisian districts and the coast of Norway<sup>4</sup>. From about the sixth century, when "Dorostates of the Frisians" is mentioned by the Geographer of Ravenna (or the source from which he drew) in a manner which shows it to have been known even in Italy as a place of peculiar

<sup>1</sup> p. 392<sup>2</sup> p. 431<sup>3</sup> *Nennius Interpretatus*, ed. Mommsen (*Chronica Minora*, III, 179, in *Mon. Germ. Hist.*)<sup>4</sup> "De norske oldsager synes at vidne om, at temmelig livlige handelsforbindelser i den ældre jernalder har fundet sted mellem Norge og de sydlige Nordskyster." Undset, *Fra Norges ældre Jernalder* in the *Aarbøger for Nordisk Oldkyndighed og Historie*, 1880, 89-184, esp. p. 173. See also Chadwick, *Origin*, 93. I am indebted to Chadwick's note for this reference to Undset.

importance<sup>1</sup>, to the ninth century, when it was destroyed by repeated attacks of the Vikings, the Frisian port of Dorestad<sup>2</sup> was one of the greatest trade centres of Northern Europe<sup>3</sup>. By the year 700 the Frisian power had suffered severely from the constant blows dealt to it by the Frankish Mayors of the Palace. Yet evidence seems to show that even at that date the Frisian king ruled all the coast which intervened between the borders of the Franks on the one side and of the Danes on the other<sup>4</sup>. When a zealous missionary demonstrated the powerlessness of the heathen gods by baptizing three converts in the sacred spring of Fosetisland, he was carried before the King of Frisia for judgement<sup>5</sup>.

At a later date the "Danes" became the controlling power in the North Sea, but in the centuries before the Viking raids began, the Frisians appear to have had it all their own way.

Finn, son of Folewald, found his way into some English genealogies<sup>6</sup> just as the Roman Emperor did into others. This also seems to point to the Frisian power having made an impression on the nations around.

We should expect all this to be reflected in the story of the great Frisian king. How then would a seventh or eighth century Englishman regard Finn and his father Folewalda? Probably as paramount chiefs, holding authority over the tribes of the South and East coast of the North Sea, similar to that which, for example, a Northumbrian king held over the tribes settled along the British coast. Indeed, the whole story of the Northumbrian kings, as given in Bede, deserves comparison: the relation with the subordinate tribes, the alliances, the feuds, the attempted assassinations, the loyalty of the thegns—this is the atmosphere amid which the Finn story grew up in England, and if we want to understand the story we must begin by getting this point of view.

But, if this be a correct estimate of tribal conditions at the time the *Finnsburg* story took form, we no longer need far-fetched explanations to account for Finnsburg not being in Friesland. It is natural that it should not be, just as natural as that the contemporary Eadwinesburg should be outside the ancient limits of Deira. Nor do we need any far-fetched explanations why the Frisians should be called *Eotenas*. That the King of Frisia should have had Jutes under his rule is likely enough. And this is all that the words of the *Episode* demand.

<sup>1</sup> *Ravennatis anonymi cosmographia*, ed. Pinder et Parthey, Berolin, 1860, pp. 27, 28 (§ 1, 11).

<sup>2</sup> The modern Wijk bij Duurstede, not far from Utrecht, on the Lower Rhine.

<sup>3</sup> An account of the numerous coins found among the ruins of the old town will be found in the *Forschungen zur deutschen Geschichte*, iv (1864), pp. 301-303. They testify to its commercial importance.

<sup>4</sup> So Adam of Bremen, following Alcuin. Concerning "Heilgland" Adam says "Hanc in vita Sancti Willebrordi Fosetisland appellari discimus, quae sita est in confinio Danorum et Fresonum." Adam of Bremen in Pertz, *Scriptores*, vii, 1846, p. 369.

<sup>5</sup> Alcuin's *Life of Willebrord* in Migne (1851)—Alcuin *Opera*, vol. ii, 699-702.

<sup>6</sup> See above, pp. 199-200.



## PART IV

### APPENDIX

#### A. A POSTSCRIPT ON MYTHOLOGY IN *BEOWULF*

##### (1) *Beowulf the Scylding and Beowulf son of Ecgtheow*

IT is now ten years since Prof. Lawrence attacked the mythological theories which, from the time when they were first enunciated by Kemble and elaborated by Mullenhoff, had wielded an authority over *Beowulf* scholars which was only very rarely disputed<sup>1</sup>

Whilst in the main I agree with Prof. Lawrence, I believe that there is an element of truth in the theories of Kemble. It would, indeed, be both astonishing and humiliating if we found that a view, accepted for three-quarters of a century by almost every student, had no foundation. What is really remarkable is, not that Kemble should have carried his mythological theory too far, but that, with the limited information at his disposal, he at once saw certain aspects of the truth so clearly.

The mythological theories involve three propositions:

(a) That some, or all, of the supernatural stories told of Beowulf the Geat, son of Ecgtheow (especially the Grendel-struggle and the dragon-struggle), were originally told of Beowulf the Dane, son of Scyld, who can be identified with the Beow or Beaw<sup>2</sup> of the genealogies.

<sup>1</sup> It had been disputed by Skeat, Earle, Boer, and others, but never with such strong reasons.

<sup>2</sup> I use below the form "Beow," which I believe to be the correct one. "Beaw" is the form in the *Anglo Saxon Chronicle*. But as the name of Sceldwa, Beaw's father, is there given in a form which is not West-Saxon (*sceld*, not *scield* or *scyld*), it may well be that "Beaw" is also the Anglian dialect form, if it be not indeed a mere error and this is confirmed by *Beo* (Ethelwerd), *Beowinus* (William of Malmesbury), *Boernus* (for *Beowinus* Chronicle Roll), perhaps too by *Beowa* (Charter of 961) and *Beow* (*MS Cott Tib. B IV*). For the significance of this last, see pp. 303-4, below, and Björkman in *Engl. Stud.* LII, 171, *Angla, Besblat*, xxx, 23.

(b) That this Beow was an ancient "god of agriculture and fertility."

(c) That therefore we can allegorize Grendel and the dragon into culture-myths connected with the "god Beow"

Now (c) would not necessarily follow, even granting (a) and (b), for though a hero of story be an ancient god, many of his most popular adventures may be later accretion. However, these two propositions (a) and (b) would, together, establish a very strong probability that the Grendel-story and the dragon-story were ancient culture-myths, and would entitle to a sympathetic hearing those who had such an interpretation of them to offer

That Beow is an ancient "god of agriculture and fertility," I believe to be substantially true. We shall see that a great deal of evidence, unknown to Kemble and Mullenhoff, is now forthcoming to show that there *was* an ancient belief in a corn-spirit Beow, and this Beow, whom we find in the genealogies as son of Scyld or Sceldwa and descendant of Sceaf, is pretty obviously identical with Beowulf, son of Scyld Scefing, in the *Prologue of Beowulf*

So far as the *Prologue* is concerned, there is, then, almost certainly a remote mythological background. But before we can claim that this background extends to the supernatural adventures attributed to Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, we must prove our proposition (a) that these adventures were once told, not of Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, but of Beowulf or Beow, son of Scyld

When it was first suggested, at the very beginning of *Beowulf*-criticism, that Beowulf was identical with the Beow of the genealogies, it had not been realized that there were in the poem *two* persons named Beowulf and thus an anonymous scholar in the *Monthly Review* of 1816<sup>1</sup>, not knowing that Beowulf the slayer of Grendel is (at any rate in the poem as it stands) distinct from Beowulf, son of Scyld, connected both with Beow, son of Scyld, so initiating a theory which, for almost a century, was accepted as ascertained fact.

<sup>1</sup> Vol LXXXI, p 517.

Kemble's identification was probably made independently of the work of this early scholar. Unlike him, Kemble, of course, realized that in our poem Beowulf the Dane, son of Scyld, is a person distinct from, is in fact not related to, Beowulf son of Ecgtheow. But he deliberately identified the two. he thought that two distinct traditions concerning the same hero had been amalgamated. in one of these traditions Beowulf may have been represented as son of Scyld, in the other as son of Ecgtheow, precisely as the hero Gunnar or Gunter is in one tradition son of Gifika (Gulfi), in another son of Dankrat

Of course such duplication as Kemble assumed is conceivable. Kemble might have instanced the way in which one and the same hero reappears in the pages of Saxo Grammaticus, with somewhat different parentage or surroundings, as if he were a quite different person. The *Lives of the Two Offas* present another parallel. the adventures of the elder Offa have been transferred to the younger, so that, along with much that is historical or semi-historical, we have much in the *Life of Offa II* that is simply borrowed from the story of Offa I. In the same way it is conceivable that reminiscences of the mythical adventures of the elder Beowulf (Beow) might have been mingled with the history of the acts of the younger Beowulf, king of the Geatas. A guarantee of the intrinsic reasonableness of this theory lies in the fact that recently it has been put forward again by Dr Henry Bradley. But it is not enough that a theory should be conceivable, and be supported by great names. I cannot see that there is any positive evidence for it at all.

The arguments produced by Kemble are not such as to carry conviction at the present day. The fact that Beowulf the Geat, son of Ecgtheow, "is represented throughout as a protecting and redeeming being" does not necessarily mean that we must look for some god or demigod of the old mythology—Frey or Sceaf or Beow—with whom we can identify him. This characteristic is strongly present in many Old English monarchs and magnates of historic, Christian, times. Oswald or Alfred or Byrhtnoth. Indeed, it might with much plausibility be argued that we are to see in this "protecting" character

of the hero evidence of Christian rather than of heathen influence<sup>1</sup>.

Nor can we argue anything from the absence of any historic record of a king Beowulf of the Geatas; our records are too scanty to admit of argument from silence and were such argument valid, it would only prove Beowulf fictitious, not mythological—no more necessarily an ancient god than Tom Jones or Mr Pickwick.

There remains the argument of Dr Bradley. • He points out that

“The poem is divided into numbered sections, the length of which was probably determined by the size of the pieces of parchment of which an earlier exemplar consisted. Now the first fifty-two lines, which are concerned with Scyld and his son Beowulf, stand outside this numbering. It may reasonably be inferred that there once existed a written text of the poem that did not include these lines. Their substance, however, is clearly ancient. Many difficulties will be obviated if we may suppose that this passage is the beginning of a different poem, the hero of which was not Beowulf the son of Ecgtheow, but his Danish namesake<sup>1</sup>.”

In this Bradley sees support for the view that “there were circulated in England two rival poetic versions of the story of the encounters with supernatural beings. the one referring them to Beowulf the Dane” [of this the *Prologue* to our extant poem would be the only surviving portion, whilst] “the other (represented by the existing poem) attached them to the legend of the son of Ecgtheow”

But surely many objections have to be met. Firstly, as Dr Bradley admits, the mention of Beowulf the Dane is not confined to the *Prologue*, this earlier Beowulf “is mentioned at the beginning of the first numbered section” and consequently Dr Bradley has to suppose that “the opening lines of this section have undergone alteration in order to bring them into connection with the prefixed matter.” And why should we assume that the “passus” of *Beowulf* correspond to pieces of

<sup>1</sup> It has indeed been so argued by Brandl “Beowulf ist nur der Erlöser seines Volkes und dankt es schliesslich dem Himmel, in einer an den Heiland gemahnenden Weise, dass er die Samen um den Preis des eigenen Lebens mit Schätzen beglücken konnte” *Pauls Grdr* (2), II, 1 1002.

<sup>2</sup> *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11th edit., III, 760-1.

parchment of various sizes of which an earlier exemplar consisted? These "passus" vary in length from 43 lines to 142, a disproportion by no means extraordinary for the sections of one and the same poem, but very awkward for the pages of one and the same book, however roughly constructed. One of the "passus" is just twice the average length, and 30 lines longer than the one which comes next to it in size. Ought we to assume that an artificer would have made his book clumsy by putting in this one disproportionate page, when, by cutting it in two, he could have got two pages of just about the size he wanted? Besides, the different "passus" do not seem to me to show signs of having been caused by such mechanical reasons as the dimensions of the parchment upon which they were written. On the contrary, the 42 places where sections begin and end almost all come where a reader might reasonably be expected to pause: 16 at the beginning or end of a speech; 18 others at a point where the narrative is resumed after some digression or general remark. Only eight remain, and even with these, there is generally some pause in the narrative at the point indicated. In only two instances does a "passus" end at a flagrantly inappropriate spot, in one of these there is strong reason to suppose that the scribe may have caused the trouble by beginning with a capital where he had no business to have done so<sup>1</sup>. Generally, there seems to be some principle governing the division of chapter from chapter, even though this be not made as a modern would have made it. But, if so, is there anything extraordinary in the first chapter, which deals with events three generations earlier than those of the body of the poem, being allowed to stand outside the numbering, as a kind of prologue?

The idea of a preface or prologue was quite familiar in Old English times. The oldest MSS<sup>2</sup> of Bede's *History* have, at the end of the preface, *Explicit praefatio incipiunt capitula*. So we have in one of the two oldest MSS<sup>3</sup> of the *Pastoral Care* "Dis is seo forespræc." On the other hand, the prologue or preface might be left without any heading or colophon, and the next

<sup>1</sup> l 2039, where a capital O occurs, but without a section number

<sup>2</sup> Moore, Namur, Cotton

<sup>3</sup> Cotton Tiberius B XI



chapter begin as No I This is the case in the other ms of the *Pastoral Care*<sup>1</sup>. Is there, then, such difficulty in the dissertation on the glory of the ancient Danish kings being treated as what, in fact, it is a prologue or preface, and being, as such, simply left outside the numbering?

Still less can we argue for the identification of our hero, the son of Ecgtheow, with Frotho, and through him with Beow, from the supposed resemblances between the dragon fights of Beowulf and Frotho. Such resemblances have been divined by Sievers, but we have seen that it is the dissimilarity, not the resemblance, of the two dragon fights which is really noteworthy<sup>2</sup>.

To prove that Beow was the original antagonist of Grendel there remains, then, only the mention in the charter of a *Grendles mere* near a *Bēowan hamm*<sup>3</sup>. Now this was not known to Kemble at the time when he formed his theory that the original slayer of Grendel was not Beowulf, but Beow. And if the arguments upon which Kemble based his theory had been at all substantial, this charter would have afforded really valuable support. But the fact that two names occur near each other in a charter cannot confirm any theory, unless that theory has already a real basis of its own.

## (2) *Beow*

Therefore, until some further evidence be discovered, we must regard the belief that the Grendel and the dragon stories were originally myths of Beow, as a theory for which sufficient evidence is not forthcoming.

But note where the theory breaks down. It seems indisputable that Beowulf the Dane, son of Scyld Scefing, is identical with Beo(w) of the genealogies for Beo(w) is son of Scyld<sup>4</sup> or Sce(a)ldwa<sup>5</sup>, who is a Scefing. But here we must stop. There is, as we have seen, no evidence that the Grendel or dragon adventures were transferred from him to their present hero,

<sup>1</sup> *Hutton*, 20

<sup>4</sup> *Ethelwerd*

<sup>2</sup> See above, pp 92-7

<sup>3</sup> See above, pp 43-4.

<sup>5</sup> *Chronicle*.

Beowulf the Geat, son of Ecgtheow. It would, of course, be quite possible to accept such transference, and *still* to reject the mythological interpretation of these adventures, just as it would be possible to believe that Gawain was originally a sun-hero, whilst rejecting the interpretation as a sun-myth of any particular adventure which could be proved to have been once told concerning Gawain. But I do not think we need even concede, as Boer<sup>1</sup> and Chadwick<sup>2</sup> do, that adventures have been transferred from Beowulf the Dane to Beowulf the Geat. We have seen that there is no evidence for such transference, however intrinsically likely it may be. Till evidence is forthcoming, it is useless to build upon Kemble's conjecture that Beowulf the Scylding sank into Beowulf the Wægmunding<sup>3</sup>.

But it is due to Kemble to remember that, while he only put this forward as a tentative conjecture, what he *was* certain about was the identity of Beowulf the Scylding with Beow, and the divinity of these figures. And here all the evidence seems to justify him.

"The divinity of the earlier Beowulf," Kemble wrote, "I hold for indisputable. Beo or Beow is in all probability a god of agriculture and fertility. It strengthens this view of the case that he is the grandson of Sceaþ, *manipulus frumenti*, with whom he is perhaps in fact identical."

Whether or no Beow and Sceaþ were ever identical, it is certain that Beow (grain) the descendant of Sceaþ (sheaf) suggests a corn-myth, some survival from the ancient worship of a corn-spirit.

Now *bēow*, 'grain, barley,' corresponds to Old Norse *bygg*, just as, corresponding to O E *trēwe*, we have O N *tryggr*, or corresponding to O E *glēaw*, O N *gloggrr*. Corresponding to the O E proper name *Bēow*, we might expect an O N name, the first letters in which would be *Bygg(v)*-

And pat he comes, like the catastrophe of the Old Comedy. When Loki strode into the Hall of Ægir, and assailed with clamour and scandal the assembled gods and goddesses, there were present, among the major gods, also Byggvir and his wife

<sup>1</sup> Boer, *Beowulf*, 135, 143. *Arkiv f. nord. Filologi*, XIX, 29

<sup>2</sup> *Heroic Age*, 126

<sup>3</sup> *Postscript*, pp. xi, xiv

<sup>4</sup> *Postscript to Preface*, p. ix

Beyla, the servants of Frey, the god of agriculture and fertility. Loki reviles the gods, one after the other: at last he exchanges reproaches with Frey. To see his lord so taunted is more than Byggvir can endure, and he turns to Loki with the words

Know thou, that were my race such as is that of Ingunar-Frey,  
and if I had so goodly a seat, finer than marrow would I grind thee,  
thou crow of ill-omen, and pound thee all to pieces<sup>1</sup>.

Byggvir is evidently no great hero he draws his ideas from the grinding of the homely hand-mill, with which John Barleycorn has reason to be familiar

A miller used him worst of all,  
For he crushed him between two stones<sup>2</sup>

Loki, who has addressed by name all the other gods, his acquaintances of old, professes not to know who is this insignificant being but his reference to the hand-mill shows that in reality he knows quite well

What is that little creature that I see fawning and sneaking and  
snuffing. ever wilt thou be at the ears of Frey, and chattering at the  
quern<sup>3</sup>

Byggvir replies with a dignity which reminds us of the traditional characteristics of Sir John Barleycorn, or Allan O'Maut For

Uskie-bae ne'er bure the bell  
Sae bald as Allan bure himsel<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Lokasenna* in *Die Lieder der Edda*, herausg. von Simons u. Gering, I, 134

Byggvir kvað  
" [Veiztu] ef [ek] sþile áttak sem Ingunar Freyr,  
ok svá súllekt setr,  
merge smára málþak [þá] meinkrþko  
ok lempa alla í líþo "

<sup>2</sup> Lines corresponding to these of Burns are found both in the Scotch ballad recorded by Jamieson, and in the English ballad (Pepys Collection) See Jamieson, *Popular Ballads and Songs*, 1806, II, 241, 256

<sup>3</sup> Loki kvað  
" Hvat's þat et lítla, es [ek] þat löggra sék,  
ok snapvist snaper?  
at eyrom Freys mont[u] sþ vesa  
ok und kvernom klaka "

<sup>4</sup> Jamieson, II, 239 So Burns "John Barleycorn was a hero bold," and the ballad

John Barleycorn is the wightest man  
That ever throve in land

Byggvir adopts the same comic-heroic pose.

Byggvir am I named, and all gods and men call me hasty; proud  
am I, by reason that all the children of Odin are drinking ale together<sup>1</sup>.

But any claims Byggvir may make to be a hero are promptly dismissed by Loki.

Hold thou silence, Byggvir, for never canst thou share food justly  
among men thou didst hide among the straw of the hall: they could  
not find thee, when men were fighting<sup>2</sup>.

Now the taunts of Loki, though we must hope for the credit of Asgard that they are false, are never pointless. And such jibes as Loki addresses to Byggvir *would* be pointless, if applied to one whom we could think of as in any way like our Beowulf. Later, Beyla, wife of Byggvir, speaks, and is silenced with the words "Hold thy peace—wife thou art of Byggvir" Byggvir must have been a recognized figure of the old mythology<sup>3</sup>, but one differing from the monster-slaying Beow of Mullenhoff's imagination.

Byggvir is a little creature (*et lilla*), and we have seen above<sup>4</sup> that Scandinavian scholars have thought that they have discovered this old god in the Pekko who "promoted the growth of barley" among the Finns in the sixteenth century, and who is still worshipped among the Esthonians on the opposite side of the gulf as a three year old child, the form *Pekko* being derived, it is supposed, from the primitive Norse form *\*Beggwuz*. This is a corner of a very big subject the discovery, among the Lapps and Finns, of traces of the heathendom of the most

<sup>1</sup> Byggvir kvap  
"Byggver ek hente, en mik brápan kveða  
gop þú ok gumar,  
því emk hér hrópogr, at drekka Hrópts meger  
aller þi saman "

<sup>2</sup> Loki kvap  
"þege þú, Byggver! þú kunnir aldregi  
deila meþ mennom mat,  
[ok] þik i fiets stræ finna né mótto,  
þás vógo verar "

<sup>3</sup> This follows from the allusive way in which he and his wife are introduced—there must be a background to allusions. If the poet were inventing this figure, and had no background of knowledge in his audience to appeal to, he must have been more explicit. Cf. Olsen in *Christiana Videnskapselskabet's Skrifter*, 1914, II, 2, 107.

<sup>4</sup> p. 87.

ancient Teutonic world, just as Thomsen has taught us to find in the Finnish language traces of Teutonic words in their most antique form.

The Lappish field has proved the most successful hunting ground<sup>1</sup>. among the Finns, apart from the Thunder-god, connection with Norse beliefs is arguable mainly for a group of gods of fruitfulness<sup>2</sup>. The cult of these, it is suggested, comes from scattered Scandinavian settlers in Finland, among whom the Finns dwelt, and from whom they learnt the worship of the spirits of the seed and of the spring, just as they learnt more practical lessons. First and foremost among these stands Pekko, whom we know to have been especially the god of barley, and whose connection with Beow or Byggvir (\*Beggwuz) is therefore a likely hypothesis enough<sup>3</sup>. Much less certain is the connection of Sampsa, the spirit of vegetation, with any Germanic prototype, he may have been a god of the rush-grass<sup>4</sup> (Germ *simse*). Runkoteivas or Rukotivo was certainly the god of rye, and the temptation to derive his name from Old Norse (*rugr-tiworr*, "rye-god") is great<sup>5</sup>. But we have not evidence for

<sup>1</sup> See Olnik, "Nordisk og Lappisk Gudsdyrkelse," *Danske Studier*, 1905, pp 39-57, "Tordenguden og hans dreng," 1905, pp 129-46, "Tordenguden og hans dreng i Lappernes myteverden," 1906, pp 65-9, Krohn, "Lappische beiträge zur germ. mythologie," *Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen*, vi, 1906, pp 155-80.

<sup>2</sup> See Axel Olnik in *Festgabe f. Vilh Thomsen*, 1912 (= *Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen*, xii, 1, p 40). Olnik refers therein to his earlier paper on the subject in *Danske Studier*, 1911, p 38, and to a forthcoming article in the *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift*, which has, I think, never appeared. See also K. Krohn in *Göttingische gelehrte Anzeigen*, 1912, p 211. Reviewing Meyer's *Altgermanische Religionsgeschichte*, Krohn, after referring to the Teutonic gods of agriculture, continues "Ausser diesen agrukulturellen Gottheiten sind aus der finnischen Mythologie mit Hulfe der Linguistik mehrere germanische Naturgotter welche verschiedene Nutzpflanzen vertreten, entdeckt worden der Roggengott Runkoteivas oder Rukotivo, der Gerstengott Pekko (nach Magnus Olsen aus urnord. Beggw., vgl. Byggvir) und ein Gott des Futtergrases Sampsa (vgl. Semse od. Simse, 'die Binse')." See also Krohn, "Germanische Elemente in der finnischen Volksdichtung," *ZfdA* LI, 1909, pp 13-22, and Karsten, "Einige Zeugnisse zur altnordischen Gotterverehrung in Finland," *Finnisch Ugrische Forschungen*, xii, 307-16.

<sup>3</sup> As proposed by K. Krohn in a publication of the Finnish Academy at Helsingfors which I have not been able to consult, but as to which see Setälä in *Finnisch Ugrische Forschungen*, xiii, 311, 424. Setälä accepts the derivation from *beggwu-*, rejecting an alternative derivation of Pekko from a Finnish root.

<sup>4</sup> This is proposed by J. J. Mikkola in a note appended to the article by K. Krohn, "Sampsa Pellervomen < Njodr, Freyr?" in *Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen*, iv, 231-48. See also Olnik, "Forårsmyten hos Finnerne," in *Danske Studier*, 1907, pp 62-4.

<sup>5</sup> See note by K. Krohn, *Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen*, vi, 105.

the worship among Germanic peoples of such a rye-god, as we have in the case of the barley-god Byggvir-Beow. These shadowy heathen gods, however, do give each other a certain measure of mutual support.

And, whether or no Pekko be the same as Byggvir, his worship is interesting as showing how the spirit of vegetation may be honoured among primitive folk. His worshippers, the Setukese, although nominally members of the Greek Orthodox Church, speak their own dialect and often hardly understand that of their Russian priests, but keep their old epic and lyric traditions more than almost any other section of the Finnish-Esthonian race. Pekko, who was honoured among the Finns in the sixteenth century for "promoting the growth of barley," survives among the present-day peasantry around Pskoff, not only as a spirit to be worshipped, but as an actual idol, fashioned out of wax in the form of a child, sometimes of a three year old child. He lives in the corn-bin, but on certain occasions is carried out into the fields. Not everyone can afford the amount of wax necessary for a Pekko—in fact there is usually only one in a village—he lodges in turn with different members of his circle of worshippers. He holds two moveable feasts, on moonlight nights—one in spring, the other in autumn. The wax figure is brought into a lighted room draped in a sheet, there is feasting, with dancing hand in hand, and singing round Pekko. Then they go out to decide who shall keep Pekko for the next year—his host is entitled to special blessing and protection. Pekko is carried out into the field, especially to preside over the sowing<sup>1</sup>.

I doubt whether, in spite of the high authorities which support it, we can as yet feel at all certain about the identification of Beow and Pekko. But I think we can accept with fair certainty the identification of Beow and Byggvir. And we can at any rate use Pekko as a collateral example of the way in which a grain-spirit is regarded. Now in either case we find no support whatever for the supposition that the activities of

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 87, and M. J. Eisen, "Ueber den Pekokultus bei den Setukesen," *Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen*, vi, 104-11.

Beow, the spirit of the barley, could, or would, have been typified under the guise of battles such as those which Beowulf the Geat wages against Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon. In Beowulf the Geat we find much that suggests the hero of folk-tale, overlaid with much that belongs to him as the hero of an heroic poem, but nothing suggestive of a corn-myth. On the other hand, so long as we confine ourselves to Beow and his ancestor Scaef, we are in touch with this type of myth, however remotely. The way that Scaef comes over the sea, as recorded by William of Malmesbury, is characteristic. That "Sheaf" should be, in the language of Mullenhoff, "placed in a boat and committed to the winds and waves in the hope that he will return new-born in the spring" is exactly what we might expect, from the analogy of harvest customs and myths of the coming of spring.

In Sætersdale, in Norway, when the ice broke up in the spring, and was driven ashore, the inhabitants used to welcome it by throwing their hats into the air, and shouting "Welcome, Corn-boat." It was a good omen if the "Corn-boats" were driven high and dry up on the land<sup>1</sup>. The floating of the sheaf on a shield down the Thames at Abingdon<sup>2</sup> reminds us of the Bulgarian custom, in accordance with which the venerated last sheaf of the harvest was floated down the river<sup>3</sup>. But every neighbourhood is not provided with convenient rivers, and in many places the last sheaf is merely drenched with water. This is an essential part of the custom of "crying the neck."

The precise ritual of "crying the neck" or "crying the mare" was confined to the west and south-west of England<sup>4</sup>. But there is no such local limitation about the custom of drenching the

<sup>1</sup> See M. Olsen, *Hedenske Kulturer i Norske Stedsnavne*, Christiania Videnskapselskabet's Skrifter, II, 2, 1914, pp. 227-8.

<sup>2</sup> See above, p. 84.

<sup>3</sup> Mannhardt, *Mythologische Forschungen*, 332.

<sup>4</sup> In view of the weight laid upon this custom by Olrik as illustrating the story of Scaef, it is necessary to note that it seems to be confined to parts of England bordering on the "Celtic fringe." See above, pp. 81, etc. Olrik and Olsen quote it as Kentish (see *Helledigtning*, II, 252) but this is certainly wrong. Frazer attributes the custom of "crying the mare" to Hertfordshire and Shropshire (*Spirits of the Corn*, I, 292 = *Golden Bough*, 3rd edit., VII, 292). In this he is following Brand's *Popular Antiquities* (1813, I, 443, 1849, II, 24, also Carew Hazlitt, 1905, I, 157). But Brand's authority is Blount's *Glossographia*, 1674, and Blount says *Herefordshire*.

last sheaf, or its bearers and escort, with water. This has been recorded, among other places, at Hitchin in Hertfordshire<sup>1</sup>, in Cambridgeshire<sup>2</sup>, Nottinghamshire<sup>3</sup>, Pembrokeshire<sup>4</sup>, Wigtownshire<sup>5</sup> as well as in Holstein<sup>6</sup>, Westphalia<sup>7</sup>, Prussia<sup>8</sup>, Galicia<sup>9</sup>, Saxon Transsylvania<sup>10</sup>, Roumania<sup>11</sup> and perhaps in ancient Phrygia<sup>12</sup>.

Now it is true that drenching the last sheaf with water, as a rain charm, is by no means the same thing as floating it down the river, in the expectation that it will come again in the spring. But it shows the same sense of the continued existence of the corn-spirit. That the *seed*, when sown, should be sprinkled with water as a rain charm (as is done in places) seems obvious and natural enough. But when the *last sheaf* of the preceding harvest is thus sprinkled, to ensure plenteous rain upon the crops of next year, we detect the same idea of continuity which we find expressed when Scaef comes to land from over the sea the spirit embodied in the sheaf of last year's harvest returning, and bringing the renewed power of vegetation.

The voyage of the Abingdonian sheaf on the Thames was conducted upon a shield, and it may be that the "vessel without a rower" in which "Sheaf" came to land was, in the original version, a shield. There would be precedent for this. The shield was known by the puzzling name of "Ull's ship" in Scaldic poetry, presumably because the god Ull used his shield as a boat. Anyway, Scyld came to be closely connected with Scaef and Beow. In Ethelwerd he is son of the former and father of the latter but in the *Chronicle* genealogies five names intervene between Scyld and Scaef, and the son of Scaef is Bedwig, or as he is called in one version, Beow. *Bedwig* and *Beow* are probably derived from *Beowinus*, the Latinized

<sup>1</sup> Brand, *Popular Antiquities*, 1849, II, 24

<sup>2</sup> Frazer in the *Folk Lore Journal*, VII, 1889, pp 50, 51, *Adonis, Attis and Osiris*, I, 237

<sup>3</sup> Frazer, *Adonis, Attis and Osiris*, I, 238 (*Golden Bough*, 3rd edit.)

<sup>4</sup> Frazer, *Spirits of the Corn and of the Wild*, I, 143-4

<sup>5</sup> Frazer in the *Folk-Lore Journal*, VII, 1889, pp 50, 51

<sup>6</sup> Mannhardt, *Forschungen*, 317

<sup>7</sup> Frazer, *Spirits of the Corn*, I, 138.

<sup>8</sup> Mannhardt, 323, Frazer, *Adonis*, I, 238

<sup>9</sup> Mannhardt, 330

<sup>10</sup> Mannhardt, 24, Frazer, *Adonis*, I, 238

<sup>11</sup> Frazer, *Adonis*, I, 237.

<sup>12</sup> Frazer, *Spirits of the Corn*, I, 217



form of *Beow* A badly formed *o* might easily be mistaken for a *d*, and indeed *Beowinus* appears in forms much more corrupt. In that case it would appear that while some genealogies made Beow the son of Scyld, others made him son of Sceaƿ, and that the compiler of the pedigree got over the difficulty in the usual way, by adding the one version to the other<sup>1</sup>.

But all this is very hypothetical, and how and when Scyld came to be connected with Sceaƿ and with Beow we cannot with any certainty say At any rate we find no trace of such connection in Danish traditions of the primitive King Skjold of the Danes But we can say, with some certainty, that in Beowulf the Dane, the son of Scyld Scefing, in our poem, we have a figure which is identical with Beow, son of Scyld or of Sceldwa and descendant of Sceaƿ, in the genealogies, and that this Beow is likely to have been an ancient corn-spirit, parallel to the Scandinavian Byggvir That amount of mythology probably *does* underlie the *Prologue to Beowulf*, though the author would no doubt have been highly scandalized had he suspected that his pattern of a young prince was only a disguised heathen god. But I think that any further attempt to proceed, from this, to mythologize the deeds of Beowulf the Geat, is pure conjecture, and probably quite fruitless conjecture.

I ought not to conclude this note without reference to the admirable discussion of this subject by Prof Bjorkman in *Englische Studien*<sup>2</sup> This, with the elucidation of other proper names in *Beowulf*, was destined to be the last big contribution to knowledge made by that ripe and good scholar, whose premature loss we all deplore, and it shows to the full those qualities of wide knowledge and balanced judgment which we have all learnt to admire in him

## B GRENDEL

It may be helpful to examine the places where the name of Grendel occurs in English charters.

<sup>1</sup> See Bjorkman in *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxx, 1919, p 23 In a similar way Sceaƿ appears twice in William of Malmesbury, once as Sceaƿ and once as Strephius.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. LII, p 145

A.D. 708. Grant of land at Abbots Morton, near Alcester, co Worcester, by Kenred, King of the Mercians, to Evesham (extant in a late copy).

*Ærest of grindeles pytt on wīðmære; of wīðmære on þæt rēade slōh . of ðære dīce on þene blace pōl, of þām pōle æfter long pīdele in tō þām mersce; of þām mersce bā æft on grindeles pytt*<sup>1</sup>

The valley of the Piddle Brook is about a mile wide, with hills rising on each side till they reach a height of a couple of hundred feet above the brook. The directions begin in the valley and run "From Grindel's 'pytt' to the willow-mere, from the willow-mere to the red morass"; then from the morass the directions take us up the hill and along the lea, where they continue among the downs till we again make our descent into the valley, "from the ditch to the black pool, from the pool along the Piddle brook to the marsh, and from the marsh back to Grindel's 'pytt'". In modern English a "pit" is an artificial hole which is generally dry but the word is simply Latin *puteus*, "a well," and is used in this sense in the Gospel translations. Here it is a hole, and we may be sure that, with the willow-mere and the red slough on the one side, and the black pool and the marsh on the other, the hole was full of water.

A.D. 739. Grant of land at Creedy, co Devon, by Æthelheard, King of Wessex, to Bishop Forthhere.

*of doddan hrycge on grendeles pyt, of grendeles pytte on ifigbearo* (ivy-grove) <sup>2</sup>

The spot is near the junction of the rivers Exe and Creedy, with Dartmoor in the distance. The neighbourhood bears uncanny names, *Cāines æcer*, *egesān trēow*. If, as has been suggested by Napier and Stevenson, a trace of this pit still survives in the name Pitt farm, the mere must have been in the uplands, about 600 feet above sea level.

<sup>1</sup> *MS Cott Vesp B XXIV*, fol 32 (Evesham Cartulary). See Birch, *Cart Sax* i, 176 (No 120), Kemble, *Cod Dipl* iii, 378. Kemble prints *þæt æft for þā æft* (MS "þ æft"). For examples of "þ" for *þā*, see *Ælfrics Grammatik*, herausg. Zupitza, 1880, 38, 3, 121, 4, 291, 1.

<sup>2</sup> There are two copies, one of the tenth and one of the eleventh century, among the Crawford Collection in the Bodleian. See Birch, *Cart Sax* iii, 667 (No 1331), Napier and Stevenson, *The Crawford Collection (Anecdota Oxoniensia)*, 1895, pp 1, 3, 50.

A.D. 931. Grant of land at Ham in Wiltshire by Athelstan to his thane Wulfgar. Quoted above, p. 43. It is in this charter that *on Bēowan hammes hecgan, on Grendles mere*<sup>1</sup> occur. "Grendel pits or meres" are in most other cases in low-lying marshy country but this, like (perhaps) the preceding one, is in the uplands—it must have been a lonely mere among the hills, under Inkpen Beacon.

*Circa* A.D. 957. A list of boundaries near Battersea<sup>2</sup>

*Dis synd ðā landgemære tō Batricesere. Ærst at hēgefre; fram hēgefre to gætenesheale; fram gæteneshæle to gryndeles syllen; fram gryndeles sylle to russemere, fram russemere to bælgenham.*

All this is low-lying land, just south of the Thames. *Hēgefre* is on the river, *Bælgenham* is Balham, co. Surrey. "From Grendel's mire to the rushy mere" harmonizes excellently with what we know of the swampy nature of this district in early times.

A.D. 958. Grant of land at Swinford, on the Stour, co. Stafford, by King Eadred to his thane Burhelm<sup>3</sup>

*Ondlong bæces wið neoþan costacote, ondlong dices in grendels-mere; of grendels-mere in stāncōfan; of stāncōfan ondlong dūne on stiran mere.*

A.D. 972. Confirmation of lands to Pershore Abbey (Worcester) by King Edgar<sup>4</sup>

*of Grindles bece swā þæt gemære ligð*

A.D. 972. Extract from an account of the descent of lands belonging to Westminster, quoting a grant of King Edgar<sup>5</sup>

*andlang hagan to grendeles gatan æfter kincges mearce innan brægentan.*

The property described is near Watling Street, between Edgware, Hendon, and the River Brent. It is a low-lying

<sup>1</sup> *MS Cotton Ch VIII, 16*. See Birch, *Cart Sax* II, 363 (No 677), Kemble, *Cod Dipl* II, 172.

<sup>2</sup> A nearly contemporary copy *Westminster Abbey Charters*, III. See Birch, *Cart Sax* III, 189 (No 994), and W B Sanders, *Ord Surv Facs* II, plate III.

<sup>3</sup> A fourteenth to fifteenth century copy preserved at Wells Cathedral (*Registr Album*, f 289 b). See Birch, *Cart Sax* III, 223 (No 1023).

<sup>4</sup> *MS Cotton Aug II, 6*. See Birch, *Cart Sax* III, 588 (No 1282).

<sup>5</sup> *Brit Mus Stowe Chart* No 32. See Birch, *Cart Sax*, III, 605 (No 1290).

district almost surrounded by the hills of Hampstead, Highgate, Barnet, Mill Hill, Elstree, Bushey Heath and Harrow. The bottom of the basin thus formed must have been a swamp<sup>1</sup>. What the "gate" may have been it is difficult to say. A foreign scholar has suggested that it may have been a narrow mountain defile or possibly a cave<sup>2</sup>, but this suggestion could never have been made by anyone who knew the country. The "gate" is likely to have been a channel connecting two meres—or it might have been a narrow piece of land between them—one of those *enge ānpādas* which Grendel and his mother had to tread. Anyway, there is nothing exceptional in this use of "gate" in connection with a water-spirit. Necker, on the Continent, also had his "gates". Thus there is a "Neckersgate Mill" near Brussels, and the name "Neckersgate" used also to be applied to a group of houses near by, surrounded by water<sup>3</sup>.

All the other places clearly point to a water-spirit: two meres, two pits, a mire and a beck for the most part situated in low-lying country which must in Anglo-Saxon times have been swampy. All this harmonizes excellently with the *fenfreoðo* of *Beowulf* (l. 851). Of course it does not in the least follow that these places were named after the Grendel of our poem. It may well be that there was in England a current belief in a creature Grendel, dwelling among the swamps. Von Sydow has compared the Yorkshire belief in Peg Powler, or the Lancashire Jenny Greenteeth. But these aquatic monsters are not exactly parallel, for they abide in the water, and are dangerous only to those who attempt to cross it, or at any rate venture too near the bank<sup>4</sup>, whilst Grendel and even his mother are capable of excursions of some distance from their fastness amid the fens.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. the *Victoria History*, Middlesex, II, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> "Grendeles gate har val snarast varit någon naturbildning t ex ett trångt bergpass eller kanske en grotta" C. W. von Sydow, in an excellent article on *Grendel's anglosaxiska ortnamn*, in *Nordiska Ortnamn Hyllningsskrift tillagnad A. Noreen*, Upsala, 1914, pp. 160-4.

<sup>3</sup> *Près du Neckersgat molen*, il y avait jadis, antérieurement aux guerres de religion, des maisons entourées d'eau et appelées de *hoffstede* le *Neckersgate* Waiters (A.), *Histoire des Environs de Bruxelles*, 1852, III, 646.

<sup>4</sup> Peg Powler lived in the Tees, and devoured children who played on the banks, especially on Sandays. Peg o' Neil, in the Ribble, demanded a life every seven years. See Henderson (W.), *Notes on the Folk-Lore of the Northern Counties of England*, 1879 (*Folk-Lore Society*), p. 285.

Of course the mere-haunting Grendel *may* have been identified only at a comparatively late date with the spirit who struggles with the hero in the house, and flees below the earth in the folk-tale

At any rate belief in a Grendel, haunting mere and fen, is clearly demonstrable for England—at any rate for the south and west of England for of these place-names two belong to the London district, one to Wiltshire, one to Devonshire, two to Worcester and one to Stafford. The place-name *Grendele* in Yorkshire is too doubtful to be of much help (*Domesday Book*, I, 302). It is the modern village Grindale, four miles N.W. of Bridlington. From it, probably, is derived the surname *Grindle*, *Grindall* (Bardsley).

Abroad, the nearest parallel is to be found in Transsylvania, where there is a *Grandels mör* among the Saxons of the Senndorf district, near Bistritz. The Saxons of Transsylvania are supposed to have emigrated from the neighbourhood of the lower Rhine and the Moselle, and there is a *Grindelbach* in Luxemburg which may possibly be connected with the marsh demon<sup>1</sup>

Most of the German names in *Grindel-* or *Grendel-* are connected with *grendel*, “a bar,” and therefore do not come into consideration here<sup>2</sup> but the Transylvanian “Grendel’s marsh<sup>3</sup>,” anyway, reminds us of the English “Grendel’s marsh” or “mere” or “pit.” Nevertheless, the local story with which the Transylvanian swamp is connected—that of a peasant who was ploughing with six oxen and was swallowed up in the earth—is such that it requires considerable ingenuity to see any connection between it and the *Beowulf-Grendel*-tale<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Kisch (G.), *Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der siebenburgischen und moselfränkisch-luxemburgischen Mundart, nebst siebenburgisch-niederrheinischem Orts- und Familiennamen-verzeichnis* (vol. XXXIII, 1 of the *Archiv des Vereins f. siebenbürg. Landeskunde*, 1905)

<sup>2</sup> See *Grindel* in Forstemann (E.), *Alteutsches Namenbuch*, Dritte Aufl., herausg. Jellinghaus, II, 1913, and in Fischer (H.), *Schwabisches Wörterbuch*, III, 1911 (nevertheless Rooth legitimately calls attention to the names recorded by Fischer in which *Grindel* is connected with *bach*, *teich* and *moos*)

<sup>3</sup> There is an account of this by G. Kisch in the *Festgabe zur Feier der Einweihung des neuen evang. Gymnasial-Bürger- und Elementar-schulgebäudes in Besztercze (Bistritz) am 7 Oct. 1911*, a document which I have not been able to procure

<sup>4</sup> Such a connection is attempted by W. Benary in Herrag’s *Archiv*, CXXX, 154. Alternative suggestions, which would exclude any connection with the Grendel of *Beowulf*, are made by Klæber, in *Archiv*, CXXXI, 427.

The Anglo-Saxon place-names may throw some light upon the meaning and etymology of "Grendel". The name has generally been derived from *grindan*, "to grind", either directly<sup>2</sup>, because Grendel grinds the bones of those he devours, or indirectly, in the sense of "tormentor"<sup>3</sup>. Others would connect with O N *grindill*, "storm," and perhaps with M E *gryndel*, "angry"<sup>4</sup>.

It has recently been proposed to connect the word with *grund*, "bottom" for Grendel lives in the *mere-grund* or *grund-wong* and his mother is the *grund-wyrgin*. Enk Rooth, who proposes this etymology, compares the Icelandic *grandr*, "a sandbank," and the common Low German dialect word *grand*, "coarse sand"<sup>5</sup>. This brings us back to the root "to grind," for *grand*, "sand" is simply the product of the grinding of the waves<sup>6</sup>. Indeed the same explanation has been given of the word "ground".

However this may be, the new etymology differs from the old in giving Grendel a name derived, not from his grinding or tormenting others, but from his dwelling at the bottom of the lake or marsh<sup>8</sup>. The name would have a parallel in the Modern English *grindle*, *grundel*, German *grundel*<sup>9</sup>, a fish haunting the bottom of the water.

The Old English place-names, associating Grendel as they do with meres and swamps, seem rather to support this.

As to the Devonshire stream *Grendel* (now the Grindle or Greendale Brook), it has been suggested that this name is also

<sup>1</sup> A very useful summary of the different etymologies proposed is made by Rooth in *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxviii (1917), 335-8.

<sup>2</sup> So Skeat, "On the significance of the monster Grendel," *Journal of Philology*, Cambridge, xv (1886), p. 123, Laistner, *Rätsel der Sphinx*, 1889, p. 23, Holthausen, in his edition.

<sup>3</sup> So Weinhold in the *SB der k. Akad. Wien, Phil.-Hist. Classe*, xxvi, 255.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Gollancz, *Patience*, 1913, Glossary. For *grindill* as one of the synonyms for "storm," see *Edda Snorra Sturlusonar*, Hafniae, 1852, II, 486, 569.

<sup>5</sup> This will be found in several of the vocabularies of Low German dialects published by the *Verein für Niederdeutsche Sprachforschung*.

<sup>6</sup> See *grand* in Falk and Torp, *Etymologisk Ordbog*, Kristiania, 1903-6.

<sup>7</sup> See Feist, *Etymol. Wörterbuch der Gotischen Sprache*, Halle, 1909, *grundu waddjus*.

<sup>8</sup> With Grendel, thus explained, Rooth would connect the "Earth man" of the fairy-tale "Dat Erdmanneken" (see below, p. 370) and the name *Sandhaug*, *Sandey*, which clings to the Scandinavian *Grellir*- and *Orm*-stories. We have seen that a *sandhaug* figures also in one of the Scandinavian cognates of the folk-tale (see above, p. 67). These resemblances may be noted, though it would be perilous to draw deductions from them.

<sup>9</sup> *Schweizerisches Idiotikon*, II, 1885, p. 776.

connected with the root *grand*, "gravel," "sand." But, so far as I have been able to observe, there is no particular suggestion of sand or gravel about this modest little brook. If we follow the River Clyst from the point where the Grindle flows into it, through two miles of marshy land, to the estuary of the Exe, we shall there find plenty. But it is clear from the charter of 963 that the name was then, as now, restricted to the small brook. I cannot tell why the stream should bear the name, or what, if any, is the connection with the monster Grendel. We can only note that the name is again found attached to water, and, near the junction with the Clyst, to marshy ground.

Anyone who will hunt Grendel through the shires, first on the 6-in. Ordnance map, and later on foot, will probably have to agree with the Three Jovial Huntsmen

This huntin' doesn't pay,  
But we'n powler't up an' down a bit, an' had a rattlin' day

But, if some conclusions, although scanty, can be drawn from place-names in which the word *grendel* occurs, nothing can be got from the numerous place-names which have been thought to contain the name *Bēow*. The clearest of these is the *on Bēowan hammes hecgan*, which occurs in the Wiltshire charter of 931. But we can learn nothing definite from it and although there are other instances of strong and weak forms alternating, we cannot even be quite certain that the *Beowa* here is identical with the *Beow* of the genealogies<sup>1</sup>

The other cases, many of which occur in *Domesday Book* are worthless. Those which point to a weak form may often be derived from the weak noun *bēo*, "bee". "The Anglo-Saxons set great store by their bees, honey and wax being indispensables to them"<sup>2</sup>

*Bēas brōc*, *Bēas feld* (*Bewes feld*) occur in charters but here a connection with *bēaw*, "horsefly," is possible. For parallels, one has only to consider the long list of places enumerated by Bjorkman, the names of which are derived from those of beasts,

<sup>1</sup> See above, pp. 43, etc., below, p. 311.

<sup>2</sup> Duignan, *Warwickshire Place Names*, p. 22. Duignan suggests the same etymology for *Beoshelle*, *beas* being "the Norman scribe's idea of the gen. plu." This, however, is very doubtful.

birds, or insects<sup>1</sup>. And in such a word as *Bēolēah*, even if the first element be *bēow*, why may it not be the common noun "barley," and not the name of the hero at all?

No argument can therefore be drawn from such a conjecture as that of Olrik, that *Bēas brōc* refers to the water into which the last sheaf (representing Beow) was thrown, in accordance with the harvest custom, and in the expectation of the return of the spirit in the coming spring<sup>2</sup>.

### C. THE STAGES ABOVE WODEN IN THE WEST-SAXON GENEALOGY

The problems to which this pedigree gives rise are very numerous, and some have been discussed above. There are four which seem to need further discussion.

(I) A "Sceafa" occurs in *Widsith* as ruling over the Longobards. Of course we cannot be certain that this hero is identical with the Sceaf of the genealogy. Now there is no one in the long list of historic or semi-historic Longobard kings, ruling after the tribe had left Scandinavia, who bears a name at all similar. It seems therefore reasonable to suppose that Sceafa, if he is a genuine Longobard king at all, belongs to the primitive times when the Longobards or Winnili dwelt in "Scadan," before the historic or semi-historic times with which our extant list deals. And Old English accounts, although making Sceaf an ancestor of the Saxon kings, are unanimous in connecting him with Scani or Scandza.

Some scholars<sup>3</sup> have seen a serious difficulty in the weak form "Sceafa," as compared with "Sceaf." But we have the exactly parallel cases of *Horsa*<sup>4</sup> compared with *Hors*<sup>5</sup>, and *Hrædla*<sup>6</sup> compared with *Hrædel*<sup>7</sup>, *Hrēðel*. Parallel, but not quite so certain, are *Sceldwa*<sup>8</sup> and *Scyld*<sup>9</sup>, *Gēata*<sup>10</sup> and *Gēat*<sup>11</sup>, *Bēowa*<sup>12</sup> and *Bēaw*, *Bēo(w)*<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *Engl. Stud.* LII, 177

<sup>2</sup> *Heltedigtning*, II, 255. See above, pp. 81-7.

<sup>3</sup> Binz in *P.B.B.* XX, 148; Chadwick, *Origin*, 282. So Clarke, *Sidelights*, 128. Cf. Heusler in *Afd. A.* XXX, 31.

<sup>4</sup> *A.-S. Chronicle*

<sup>5</sup> *Historia Brittonum*

<sup>6</sup> "hrædla" (gen.), *Beowulf*, 454

<sup>7</sup> "hrædles," *Beowulf*, 1485

<sup>8</sup> *A.-S. Chronicle*

<sup>9</sup> *Beowulf*, Ethelwerd

<sup>10</sup> *Geata*, *Geta*, *Historia Brittonum*, Asser; *MS. Cott. Tib. A. VI, Textus Roffensis*

<sup>11</sup> *A.-S. Chronicle*

<sup>12</sup> Charter of 931

<sup>13</sup> *A.-S. Chronicle*, Ethelwerd.



I do not think it has ever been doubted that the forms *Hors* and *Horsa*, or *Hrēðel* and *Hrēðla*, relate to one and the same person. Prof. Chadwick seems to have little or no doubt as to the identity of *Scyld* and *Sceldwa*<sup>1</sup>, or *Bēo* and *Bēowa*<sup>2</sup>. Why then should the identity of *Scēaf* and *Scēafa* be denied because one form is strong and the other weak<sup>3</sup>? We cannot demonstrate the identity of the figure in the genealogies with the figure in *Widsith*, but little difficulty is occasioned by the weak form.

(II) Secondly, the absence of the name *Stēaf* from the oldest MS of the *Chronicle* (the *Parker MS*, C C C C 173) has been made the ground for suggesting that when that MS was written (c. 892) *Sceaf* had not yet been invented (Moller, *Volksepos*, 43, Symons in *Pauls Grdr* (2), III, 645, Napier, as quoted by Clarke, *Sidelights*, 125). But *Sceaf*, and the other names which are omitted from the *Parker MS*, are found in the other MSS of the *Chronicle* and the allied pedigrees, which are known to be derived independently from one and the same original. Now, unless the names were older than the *Parker MS*, they could not appear in so many independent transcripts. For, even though these transcripts are individually later, their agreement takes us back to a period earlier than that of the *Parker MS* itself<sup>4</sup>.

An examination of the different versions of the genealogy, given on pp 202-3, above, and of the tree showing the connection between them, on p 315, will, I think, make this clear.

The versions of the pedigree given in the *Parker MS* of the *Chronicle*, in Asser and in *Textus Roffensis I*, all contain the stages *Friþuwald* and *Friþuwulf*. Asser and *Roff I* are connected by the note about *Gēata* but *Roff I* is not derived from that text of Asser which has come down to us, as that

<sup>1</sup> *Origin*, 273.

<sup>2</sup> *Origin*, 282.

<sup>3</sup> Some O H G parallels will be found in *Zfd A* XII, 260. The weak form *Gēata*, Mr Stevenson argues, is due to Asser's attempt to reconcile the form *Gēat* with the Latin *Geta* with which he identifies it (Asser, pp 160-161). See also Chadwick, *Heroic Age*, 124 footnote. Yet we get *Gēata* in one text of the *Chronicle*, and in other documents.

<sup>4</sup> This is the view taken by Plummer, who does not seem to regard any solution as possible other than that the names are missing from the *Parker MS* by a transcriber's slip (see *Two Saxon Chronicles Parallel*, II, p xciv).

text has corrupted *Fin* and *Godwulf* into one name and has substituted *Seth* for *Scēaf* ["Seth, Saxonice Sceaf" Florence of Worcester]. *Roff I* is free from both these corruptions

Ethelwerd is obviously connected with a type of genealogy giving the stages *Friþuwald* and *Friþuwulf*, but differs from all the others in giving no stages between *Scyld* and *Scēf*

None of the other versions contain the names *Friþuwald* and *Friþuwulf*. They are closely parallel, but fall into groups showing special peculiarities

*MSS Tib A. VI* and *Tib. B I* of the *Chronicle* show only trifling differences of spelling. The mss belong respectively to about the years 1000 and 1050, and are both derived from an Abingdon original of about 977<sup>1</sup>

*MS Cott Tib B. IV* is derived from a copy of the *Chronicle* sent North about 892<sup>2</sup>

*MS Cott Tib B V* and *Textus Roffensis II* are closely connected, but neither is derived from the other. For *Roff II* preserves *Teþwa* and *Hwāla*, who are lost in *Tib B. V*, *Tib B V* preserves *Itermān*, who is corrupted in *Roff II*. Both *Tib B. V* and *Roff. II* carry the pedigree down to Edgar, mentioning his three sons *Ēadweard* and *Ēadmund* and *Æbelred æðelingas syndon Ēadgāres suna cyninges*. The original therefore apparently belongs to some date before 970, when Edmund died (cf Stevenson's Asser, 158, note)

Common features of *MS Cott Tib B. V* and *Roff. II* are (1) *Eat(a)* for *Geat(a)*, (2) the omission of *d* from *Scealdwa*, and (3) the expression *se Scēf*, "this Scēf". Features (1) and (3) are copied in the Icelandic pedigrees. *Scealdwa* is given correctly there, but the Icelandic transcriber could easily have got it from *Scealdwaging* above. The Icelandic was, then, ultimately derived either from *Tib B. V* or from a version so closely connected as not to be worth distinguishing

Accordingly *Cott Tib B. V*, *Textus Roffensis II*, *Langfeðgatal* and *Flateyjarbók* form one group, pointing to an archetype c. 970

<sup>1</sup> Plummer, II, pp xxix, xxxi, lxxxix

<sup>2</sup> Plummer, II, p lxxi. Note *Beorn* for *Bedwig*

The pedigrees can accordingly be grouped on the system shown on the opposite page<sup>1</sup>.

(III) Prof. Chadwick, in his *Origin of the English Nation*, draws wide deductions from the fact that the Danes traced the pedigree of their kings back to Skjold, whilst the West-Saxons included Sceldwa (Scyld) in their royal pedigree:

“Since the Angh and the Danes claimed descent from the same ancestor, there can be no doubt that the bond was believed to be one of blood.”

This belief, Prof. Chadwick thinks, went back to exceedingly early times<sup>2</sup>, and he regards it as well-founded.

“It is true that the Angh of Britain seem never to have included themselves among the Danes, but the reason for this may be that the term *Dene* (*Danir*) had not come into use as a collective term before the invasion of Britain.”

Doubtless the fact that the name of a Danish king *Scyld* or *Sceldwa* is found in a pedigree of West-Saxon kings, as drawn up at a period certainly not later than 892, points to a belief, at that date, in some kind of a connection. But we have still to ask: How close was the connection supposed to be? And how old is the belief?

Firstly as to the closeness of the connection. Finn also occurs in the pedigree—possibly the Frisian king: Sceaf occurs, possibly, though not certainly, a Longobard king. Noah and Adam occur, are we therefore to suppose that the compiler of the *Genealogy* believed his kings to be of one blood with the Hebrews? Certainly he did but only remotely, as common descendants of Noah. And the occurrence of Sceldwa and Sceaf and Finn in the genealogies—granting the identity of these heroes with Skjold of the Danes, Sceafa of the Longobards and Finn of the Frisians, might only prove that the genealogist believed in their common (Germanic) race.

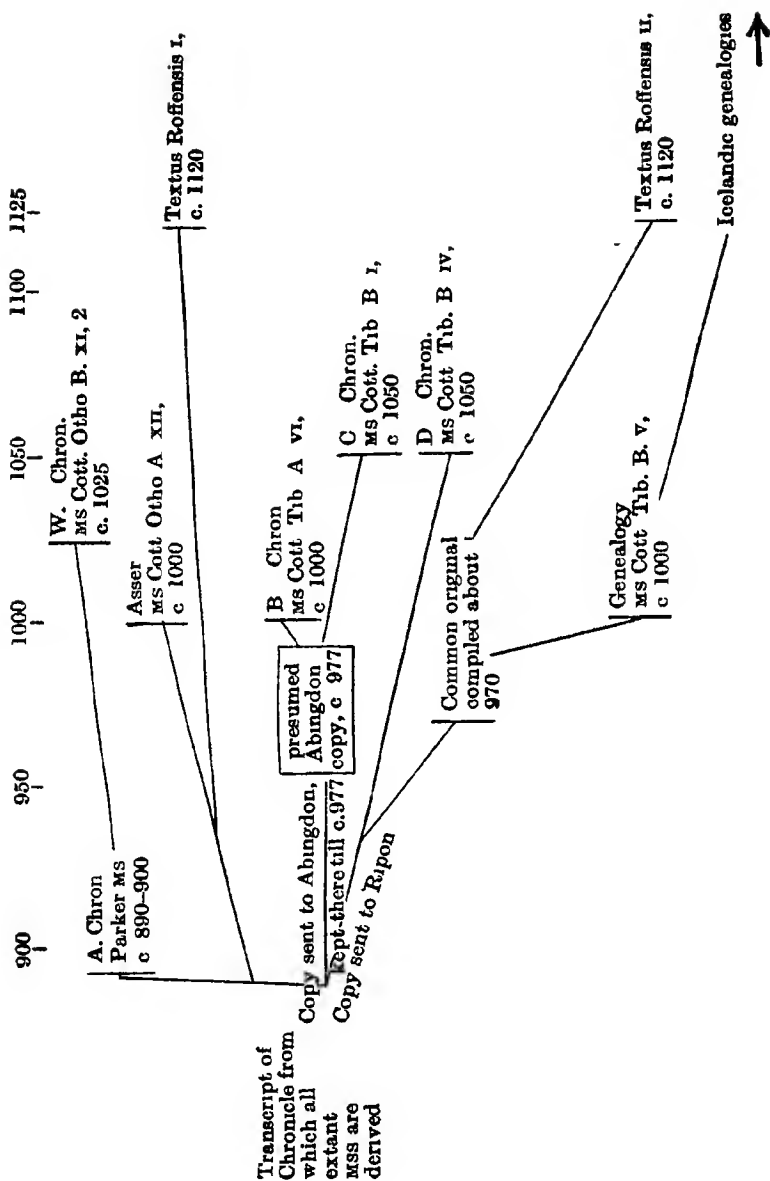
Secondly, how old is the belief? The Anglian genealogies (Northumbrian, Mercian and East Anglian), as reproduced in

<sup>1</sup> This table shows the relationship of the genealogies only, not of the whole MSS, of which the genealogies form but a small part. MS-relationships are always liable to fluctuation, as we pass from one part of a MS to another, and for obvious reasons this is peculiarly the case with the *Chronicle* MSS.

<sup>2</sup> *Origin*, 295

<sup>3</sup> *Origin*, 292

<sup>4</sup> *Origin*, 296



the *Historia Brittonum* and in the *Vespasian MS*, form part of what is doubtless, as is said above, the oldest extant English historical document. But in this document *there is no mention of Scyld*. Indeed, it contains no pedigree of the West-Saxon kings at all. From whatever cause, the West-Saxon genealogy is not extant from so early a date as are the pedigrees of the Northumbrian, Mercian, East Anglian and Kentish kings<sup>1</sup>. Still, this may well be a mere accident, and I am not prepared to dispute that the pedigree which traces the West-Saxon kings to Woden dates back, like the other genealogies connecting Old English kings with Woden, to primitive and heathen times. Now the West-Saxon pedigree is found in many forms: some which trace the royal house only to Woden, and some which go beyond Woden and contain a list of names by which Woden is connected with Scaef, and then with Noah and Adam.

(1) The nucleus of the whole pedigree is to be found in the names between Cynric or Cerdic and Woden. These occur in every version. The pedigree in this, its simplest form, is found twice among the entries in the *Chronicle* which deal with the events of heathen times, under 552 and 597. These names fall into verse:

[Cynric Cerdicing], Cerdic Elesing,  
Elesa Eshing, Esla GtWising,  
GtWis Wiging, Wig Frēawining,  
Frēawine Friðugāring, Friðugār Bronding,  
Brond Bældæging, Bældæg Wōdening

Like the mnemonic lists in *Widsuth*, these lines are probably very old. Their object is clearly to connect the founder of the West-Saxon royal house with Woden. Note, that not only do the names alliterate, but the alliteration is perfect. Every line attains double alliteration in the first half, with one alliterating word only in the second half. The lines must go back to times when lists of royal ancestors, both real and imaginary, had to

<sup>1</sup> The absence of the West-Saxon pedigree may be due to the document from which the *Historia Brittonum* and the *Vespasian MS* derive these pedigrees having been drawn up in the North. Wessex may have been outside the purview of its compiler, though against this is the fact that it contains the Kentish pedigree. But another quite possible explanation is, that Cerdic, with his odd name, was not of the right royal race, but an adventurer, and that it was only later that a pedigree was made up for his descendants, on the analogy of those possessed by the more blue-blooded monarchs of Mercia and Northumbria.

be arranged in correct verse, times when such things were recorded by memory rather than by writing. They are pre-literary, and were doubtless chanted by retainers of the West-Saxon kings in heathen days.

(2) An expanded form of this genealogy occurs in *MSS C C C C* 183 and *Cotton Tib B V*. Woden is here furnished with a father Frealaf. We know nothing of any Frealaf as father of the All-Father in heathen days, though Frealaf is found in this capacity in other genealogies written down in the ages after the conversion. Frealaf breaks the correct alliterative system. In both MSS the pedigree is brought down to King Ine (688–726) both MSS are ultimately, no doubt, derived from a list current in the time of that king, that is to say less than a century after the conversion of Wessex.

(3) A further expansion, which Prof. Napier has held on linguistic grounds<sup>1</sup> to have been written down as early as 750, is incorporated in a genealogical and chronological note regarding the West-Saxon kings, which is extant in many MSS<sup>2</sup>. In its present form this genealogical note is a recension, under Alfred, of a document coming down to the death of his father Æthelwulf. It traces the pedigree of Æthelwulf to Cerdic, but it keeps this distinct from the rhythmical nucleus, in which it traces Cerdic to Woden, and no further.

(4) Then, in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, under the year 855, the pedigree is given in its most elaborate form. There the genealogy of Æthelwulf is traced in one unbroken series, not merely through Cerdic to Woden, but from Woden through a long line of Woden's ancestors, including Frealaf, Geat, Sceldwa and Scaef, to Noah and Adam.

It has been noted above<sup>3</sup> that none of the *Chronicle* pedigrees

<sup>1</sup> See *M L N*. 1897, XII, 110–11.

<sup>2</sup> It is prefixed to the *Parker MS* of the *Chronicle*, and is found also in the Cambridge MS of the Anglo-Saxon Bede (*Univ Lib Kk 3 18*) printed in Miller's edition, in *MS Cott Tib A III*, 178 (printed in Thorpe's *Chronicle*); and in *MS Add 34652*, printed by Napier in *M L N* 1897, XII, 106 etc. There are uncollated copies in *MS C C C C* 383, fol 107, and according to Liebermann (*Herrig's Archiv*, civ, 23) in the *Textus Roffensis*, fol 7 b. There is also a fragment, which does not however include the portion under consideration, in *MS Add 23211* (*Brit Mus*) printed in Sweet's *Oldest English Texts*, p 179. The statement, sometimes made, that there is a copy in *MS C C C C* 41, rests on an error of Whelock, who was really referring to the *Parker MS* of the *Chronicle* (*C C C C* 173).

<sup>3</sup> p 73.

stop at Sceaf. The *Chronicle*, in the stages above Woden, recognizes as stopping places only Geat (Northumbrian pedigree, anno 547) or Adam (West-Saxon pedigree, anno 855).

(5) The *Chronicle* of Ethelwerd (c 1000) does, however, stop at Scef<sup>1</sup>. Now it has been argued that Ethelwerd's pedigree is merely abbreviated from the pedigree in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* under 855, and that, in making Scef the final stage, and in what he tells us about that hero, Ethelwerd is merely adapting what he had read in *Beowulf* about Scyld<sup>2</sup>. But this seems hardly possible. Ethelwerd, it is true, borrows most of his facts from the *Chronicle*, from Bede, and other known sources but there are some passages which show that he had access to a source now lost. Ethelwerd was a member of the West-Saxon royal house, and he wrote his *Chronicle* for a kinswoman, Matilda, in order, as he says, to explain their common stock and race. They were both descended from Æthelwulf, the chronicler being great-great-grandson of Æthelred, and the lady to whom he dedicates his work being great-great-granddaughter of Alfred. So he writes to tell "who and whence were their kin, so far as memory adduces, and our parents have taught us." Accordingly, though he begins his *Chronicle* with the Creation, the bulk of it is devoted to the deeds of his or Matilda's ancestors. Is it credible that he would have cut out all the stages in their common pedigree between Scyld and Scef, that he would have sacrificed all the ancestors of Scef, thus severing relations with Noah and Adam, and that he would have attributed to Scef the story which in *Beowulf* is attributed to Scyld, all this simply in order to bring his English pedigree into some harmony with what is told about the Danish pedigree in *Beowulf*—a poem of which we have no evidence that he had ever heard?

To suppose him to have done this, is to make him sacrifice, *without any reason*, just that part of the pedigree in the *Chronicle* under 855 which, from all we know of Ethelwerd, was most likely to have interested him—that which connected his race with Noah and Adam. Further, it is to suppose him to have reproduced just those stages in the pedigree which on critical

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 70, and p. 202

<sup>2</sup> Brandl in *Herrig's Archiv*, cxxxvii, 12-13.

grounds modern scholars can show to be the oldest, and to have modified or rejected just those which on critical grounds modern scholars can show to be later accretion. When Brandl supposes Ethelwerd to have produced his pedigree by comparing together merely the materials which have come down to us to-day, namely *Beowulf* and the *Chronicle*, he is, in reality, attributing to him the mind and acumen of a modern critic. An Anglo-Saxon alderman could only have detected and rejected the additions by using some material which has *not* come down to us. What more natural than that Ethelwerd, who writes as the historian of the West-Saxon royal family, should have known of a family pedigree which traced the line up to Scaef and his arrival in the boat, and that he should have (rightly) thought this to be more authoritative than the pedigree in the *Chronicle* under the year 855, which had been expanded from it? Prof Chadwick, it seems to me, is here quite justified in holding that Ethelwerd had "acquired the genealogy from some unknown source, in a more primitive form than that contained in the *Chronicle*<sup>1</sup>."

But, because the source of Ethelwerd's pedigree is more primitive than that contained in the *Chronicle* under the year 855, it does not follow that it goes back to heathen times. Wessex had been converted more than two centuries earlier.

We are now in a position to make some estimate of the antiquity of Scyld and Scaef in the West-Saxon pedigree. The nucleus of this pedigree is to be found in the verses connecting Cynric and Cerdic with Woden (Even as late as Æthelwulf and Alfred this nucleus is often kept distinct from the later, more historic stages connecting Cerdic with living men.) Pedigrees of other royal houses go to Woden, and many stop there, however, in times comparatively early, but yet Christian, we find Woden provided with five ancestors later, Ethelwerd gives him ten the *Chronicle* gives him twenty-five. It is evidently a process of accumulation.

Now, if the name of Scyld had occurred in the portion of the pedigree which traces the West-Saxon kings up to Woden,

<sup>1</sup> *Origin*, p. 272.



it would possess sufficient authority to form the basis of an argument. But Scyld, like Heremod, Beaw and Scaef, occurs in the fantastic development of the pedigree, by which Woden is connected up with Adam and Noah. The fact that these heroes occur *above* Woden makes it almost incredible that their position in the pedigree can go back to heathen times. Those who believed in Woden as a god can hardly have believed at the same time that he was a descendant of the Danish king Scyld. This difficulty Prof Chadwick admits "It is difficult to believe that in heathen times Woden was credited with five generations of ancestors, as in the *Frealaf-Geat* list" Still less is it credible that he was credited with 25 generations of ancestors, as in the *Frealaf-Geat-Sceldwa-Scaef-Noe-Adam* list

The obvious conclusion seems to me to be that the names above Woden were added in Christian times to the original list, which in heathen times only went back to Woden, and *which is still extant in this form*. A Christian, rationalizing Woden as a human magician, would have no difficulty in placing him far down the ages, just as Saxo Grammaticus does<sup>1</sup>. Obviously *Noe-Adam* must be an addition of Christian times, and the same seems to me to apply to all the other names above Woden, which, though ancient and Germanic, are not therefore ancient and Germanic in the capacity of ancestors of Woden.

And even if these extraordinary ancestors of Woden were really believed in in heathen times, they cannot have been regarded as the special property of any one nation. For it was never claimed that the West-Saxon kings had any unique distinction in tracing their ancestry to Woden, such as would give them a special claim upon Woden's forefathers. How then can the ancient belief (if indeed it *were* an ancient belief) that Woden was descended from Scyld, King of Denmark, prove that the Anglo-Saxons regarded *themselves* as specially related to the Danes<sup>2</sup>? For any such relationship derived through Woden must have been shared by all descendants of the All-Father.

Prof Chadwick avoids this difficulty by supposing that Woden did not originally occur in the pedigree, but is a later

<sup>1</sup> So Ethelwerd (*Lit* 1) sees in Woden a *rex multitudinis Barbarorum*, in error deified. It is the usual point of view, and persists down to Carlyle (*Heroes*).

# E. THE "JUTE-QUESTION" REOPENED

The view that the Geatas of *Beowulf* are the Jutes (Iuti, Iutae) of Bede (i.e. the tribe which colonized Kent, the Isle of Wight and Hampshire) has been held by many eminent scholars. It was dealt with only briefly above (pp 8-9) because I thought the theory was now recognized as being no longer tenable. Lately, however, it has been maintained with conviction and ability by two Danish scholars, Schutte and Kier. It therefore becomes necessary once more to reopen the question, now that the only elaborate discussion of it in the English language favours the "Jute-theory," especially as Axel Olrik gave the support of his great name to the view that "the question is still open"<sup>1</sup> and that "the last word has not been said concerning the nationality of the Geatas"<sup>2</sup>.

As in most controversies, a number of rather irrelevant side issues have been introduced<sup>3</sup>, so that from mere weariness students are sometimes inclined to leave the problem undecided. Yet the interpretation of the opening chapters of Scandinavian history turns upon it.

Supporters of the "Jute-theory" have seldom approached the subject from the point of view of Old English. Bugge<sup>4</sup>

did so, but the "Jute-theory" has been held chiefly by students of Scandinavian history, literature or geography, e.g. Fahlbeck<sup>5</sup>, Steenstrup<sup>6</sup>, Gering<sup>7</sup>, Olrik<sup>8</sup>, Schutte<sup>9</sup> and Kier<sup>10</sup>. It is true that the laws of Old English sound-change have been

<sup>1</sup> *The Heroic Legends of Denmark*, New York, 1919, p 32 (footnote)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* p 39

<sup>3</sup> Thus, much space has been devoted to discussing whether "Gotland," in the eleventh century Cotton MS of Alfred's Orosius, signifies Jutland. I believe that it does, but fail to see how it can be argued from this that Alfred believed the Jutes to be "Geatas." Old English had no special symbol for the semi-vowel *J*, so, to signify *Jötland*, Alfred would have written "Geotland" (Sievers, *Gram* §§ 74, 175). Had he meant "Land of the Geatas" he would have written "Geataland" or "Geotland." Surely "Gotland" is nearer to "Geotland" than to "Geatland." *P.B.B.* xii, 1-10.

<sup>5</sup> See above, p 8. Fahlbeck has recently revised and re-stated his arguments.

<sup>6</sup> *Danmarks Riges Historie*, i, 79 etc.

<sup>7</sup> *Beowulf*, übersetzt von H. Gering, 1906, p vii.

<sup>8</sup> See above, also *Nordisk Aandsliv*, 10, where Olrik speaks of the Geatas as "Jyderne." His arguments as presented to the Copenhagen *Philologisk-Historisk Samfund* are summarized by Schutte, *J.E.G.Ph.* xi, 575-6. Clausen also supports the Jute-theory, *Danske Studier*, 1918, 137-49.

<sup>9</sup> *J.E.G.Ph.* xi, 574-602.

<sup>10</sup> *Beowulf, et Bidrag til Nordens Oldhistorie* af Chr Kier, København, 1915.

clearly defined, it seldom happens that anyone who approaches the subject primarily as a student of the Anglo-Saxon language holds the view that the Geatas are Jutes.

And this is naturally so for, from the point of view of language, the question is not disputable. The *Gēatas* phonologically are the *Gautar* (the modern Gotar of Southern Sweden). It is admitted that the words are identical<sup>1</sup>. And, equally, it is admitted that the word *Gēatas* cannot be identical with the word *Iutū, Iutae*, used by Bede as the name of the Jutes who colonized Kent<sup>1</sup>. Bede's *Iutū, Iutae*, on the contrary, would correspond to a presumed Old English *\*Iutū* or *\*Iutan*<sup>2</sup>, current in his time in Northumbria. This in later Northumbrian would become *Iote, Iotan* (though the form *Iute, Iutan* might also survive). The dialect forms which we should expect (and which we find in the genitive and dative) corresponding to this would be Mercian, *Ēote, Ēotan*, Late West-Saxon, *Țte, Țtan* (through an intermediate Early West-Saxon *\*Iete, \*Ietan*, which is not recorded).

If, then, the word *Gēatas* came to supplant the correct form *Iote, Iotan* (or its Mercian and West-Saxon equivalents *Ēote, Ēotan, Țte, Țtan*), this can only have been the result of confusion. Such confusion is, on abstract grounds, conceivable: it is always possible that the name of one tribe may come to be attached to another. "Scot" has ceased to mean "Irishman," and has come to mean "North Briton", and there is no intrinsic impossibility in the word *Gēatas* having been transferred by Englishmen, from the half-forgotten Gautar, to the Jutes, and having driven out the correct name of the latter, *Iotr, Iotan*. For example, there might have been an exiled Geatic family among the Jutish invaders, which might have become so prominent as to cause

<sup>1</sup> This is admitted by Bugge, *PBB* XII, 6. "*Gēatas* ist sprachlich ein ganz anderer name als altn *Jotar, Jutar*, bei Beda *Jutae*, und nach Beda im *Chron. Sax.* 449 *Jotum, Jutna*. Die *Geatas* tragen einen namen der sprachlich mit altn *Gautar* identisch ist."

<sup>2</sup> From a presumed Prim Germ *\*Eutiz, \*Eutjaniz*. The word in OE seems to have been declined both as an *i*-stem and an *n*-stem, the *n*-stem forms being used more particularly in the gen. plu., just as in the case of the tribal names, *Seaxe, Mierce* (Sievers, § 264). The Latinized forms show the same duplication, the dat. *Eucius* pointing to an *i*-stem, the nom. *Euthio* to an *n*-stem, plu. *\*Euthiones*. For a discussion of the relation of the OE name to the Danish *Jyder*, see Bjorkman in *Anglia, Beiblatt*, XXVIII, 274-80. "Zu ae *Eote, Țte*, dan *Jyder* 'Juten'."

the name *Gēatas* to supplant the correct *Iote*, *Ēote*, etc. But, whoever the Geatas may have been, *Beowulf* is their chief early record: indeed, almost all we know of their earliest history is derived from *Beowulf*. In *Beowulf*, therefore, if anywhere, the old names and traditions should be remembered. The word *Gēat* occurs some 50 times in the poem. The poet obviously wishes to use other synonyms, for the sake of variety and alliteration. Hence we get *Weder-Gēatas*, *Wederas*, *Sæ-Gēatas*, *Gūð-Gēatas*. Now, if these Geatas are the Jutes, how comes it that the poet never calls them such, never speaks of them under the correct tribal name of *Ēote*, etc., although this was the current name at the time *Beowulf* was written, and indeed for centuries later?

For, demonstrably, the form *Ēote*, etc., was recognized as the name of the Jutes till at least the twelfth century. Then it died out of current speech, and only Bede's Latin *Iuti* (and the modern "Jute" derived therefrom) remained as terms used by the historians. The evidence is conclusive.

(a) Bede, writing about the time when *Beowulf*, in its present form, is supposed to have been composed, uses *Iuti*, *Iutae*, corresponding to a presumed contemporary Northumbrian *\*Iuti*, *\*Iutan*.

(b) In the "Alfredian" translation of Bede, made almost two centuries after Bede's time, we do indeed in one place find "Geata," "Geatum" used to translate "Iutarum," "Iutis," instead of the correctly corresponding Mercian form "Eota," "Eotum." Only two MSS are extant at this point. But since both agree, and since they belong to different types, it is probable that "Geata" here is no mere copyist's error, but is due to the translator himself<sup>1</sup>. But, later, when the translator

<sup>1</sup> I regard it as simply an error of the translator, possibly because he had before him a text in which Bede's *Iutis* had been corrupted in this place into *Giois*, as it is in Ethelwerd. *Cantuaris de Giois traserunt originem, Vuhlu quoque* (Bk. I other names which Ethelwerd draws from Bede in this section are equally corrupt).

Bede's text runs (i, 15) *Adveniant autem de tribus Germaniae populis fortioribus, id est Saxonibus, Anglis, Iutis. De Iutarum origine sunt Cantuaris et Victuarni*, in the translation "Comon hi of þrim folcum ƿam strangestan Germanie, þæt [is] of Seaxum and of Angle and of Geatum. Of Geata fruman syndon Cantware and Wihstetan" (iv, 16) *In proximam Iulorum provinciam transiit in locum, qui vocatur Ad Lapidem*, "in þa neahmægðe, seo is gecegd Eota lond, in sume stowe seo is nemned Æt Stane" (Stoneham, near Southampton). MS C.C.C. 41 reads "Ytena land". see below.

has to render Bede's "Iutorum," he gives, not "Geata," but the correct Mercian "Eota." There can be no possible doubt here, for five mss are extant at this point, and all give the correct form—four in the Mercian, "Eota," whilst one gives the West-Saxon equivalent, "Ytena."

Now the *Gēata*-passage in the Bede translation is the chief piece of evidence which those who would explain the Geatas of *Beowulf* as "Jutes" can call and it does not, in fact, much help them. What they have to prove is that the *Beowulf*-poet could consistently and invariably have used *Gēatas* in the place of *Eote*. To produce an instance in which the two terms are both used by the same translator is very little use, when what has to be proved is that the one term had already, at a much earlier period, entirely ousted the other.

All our other evidence is for the invariable use of the correct form *Iote*, *Iotan*, etc. in Old English.

(c) The passage from Bede was again translated, and inserted into a copy of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, which was sent quite early to one of the great abbeys of Northumbria<sup>1</sup>. In this, "Iutis, Iutarum" is represented by the correct Northumbrian equivalent, "Iutum," "Iotum", "Iutna."

(d) This Northumbrian Chronicle, or a transcript of it, subsequently came South, to Canterbury. There, roughly about the year 1100, it was used to interpolate an Early West-Saxon copy of the Chronicle. Surely at Canterbury, the capital of the old Jutish kingdom, people must have known the correct form of the Jutish name, whether *Gēatas* or *Iote*. We find the forms "Iotum," "Iutum", "Iutna."

(e) Corresponding to this Northumbrian (and Kentish) form *Iote*, Mercian *Eote*, the Late West-Saxon form should be *Yte*. Now *MS Corpus Christi College, Cambridge*, 41, gives us "the Wessex version of the English Bede" and is written by a scribe who knew the Hampshire district<sup>2</sup>. In this ms the "Eota" of the Mercian original has been transcribed as "Ytena," "Eotum" as "Ytum," showing that the scribe understood the tribal name and its equivalent correctly. This was about the

<sup>1</sup> *Two Saxon Chronicles*, ed. Plummer, 1899. *Introduction*, pp. lxx, lxxi.

<sup>2</sup> *The Old English version of Bede's Ecclesiastical History*, ed. Miller, II, xv, xvi, 1898.

time of the Norman Conquest, but the name continued to be understood till the early twelfth century at least. For Florence of Worcester records that William Rufus was slain *in Nova Foresta quae lingua Anglorum Ytene nuncupatur*; and in another place he speaks of the same event as happening *in prouincia Jutarum in Nova Foresta*<sup>1</sup>, which shows that Florence understood that "Ytene" was *Ytena land*, "the province of the Jutes"

It comes, then, to this. The "Jute-hypothesis" postulates not only that, at the time *Beowulf* was composed, *Gēatas* had come to mean "Jutes," but also that it had so completely ousted the correct old name *Iuti*, *Iote*, *Ēote*, *Yte*, that none of the latter terms are ever used in the poem as synonyms for Beowulf's people<sup>2</sup>. Yet all the evidence shows that *Iuti* etc was the recognized name when Bede wrote, and we have evidence at intervals showing that it was so understood till four centuries later. But not only was *Iuti*, *Iote* never superseded in O E times, there is no real evidence that *Gēatas* was ever generally used to signify "Jutes." The fact that one translator in one passage (writing probably some two centuries after *Beowulf* was composed) uses "Geata," "Geatum," where he should have used "Eota," "Eotum," does not prove the misnomer to have been general—especially when the same translator subsequently uses the correct form "Eota"

I do not think sufficient importance has been attached to what seems (to me) the vital argument against the "Jute-theory." It is not merely that *Gēatas* is the exact phonological equivalent of *Gautar* (Gotar) and cannot be equivalent to Bede's *Iuti*. This difficulty may be got over by the assumption that somehow the *Iuti*, or some of them, had adopted the name *Gēatas* and we are not in a position to disprove such assumption. But the advocates of the "Jute-theory" have further to assume that, at the date when *Beowulf* was written, the correct name *Iuti* (Northumbrian *Iote*, Mercian *Ēote*, West-Saxon *Yte*) must have so passed into disuse that it could not be once used as a

<sup>1</sup> Florenti Wigorn. *Chron.*, ed Thorpe, II, 45, I, 276

<sup>2</sup> It cannot be said that this is due to textual corruption in our late copy for the alliteration constantly demands a G-form, not a vowel-form.

synonym for Beowulf's people, by our synonym-hunting poet. And this assumption we *are* in a position to disprove

The Jute-theory would therefore still be untenable on the ground of the name, even though it were laboriously proved that, from the historical and geographical standpoint, there was more to be said for it than had hitherto been recognized. But even this has not been proved quite the reverse. As I have tried to show above, historical and geographical considerations, though in themselves not absolutely conclusive, point emphatically to an identification with the Gotar, rather than with the Jutes<sup>1</sup>

The relations of Beowulf and the Geatas with the kings of Denmark and of Sweden are the constant topic of the poem. Now the land of the Gotar *was* situated between Denmark and Sweden. But if the Geatas be Jutes, their neighbours were the Danes on the east and the Angles on the south, farther away, across the Cattegat lay the Gotar, and beyond these the Swedes. If the Geatas be Jutes, why should their immediate neighbours, the Angles, never appear in *Beowulf* as having any dealings with them? And why, above all, should the Gotar never be mentioned, whilst the Swedes, far to the north, play so large a part? Even if Swedes and Gotar had at this time been under one king, the Gotar could not have been thus ignored, seeing that, owing to their position, the brunt of the fighting must have fallen on them<sup>2</sup>. But we know that the Gotar were independent. The strictly contemporary evidence of Procopius shows quite conclusively that they were one of the strongest of the Scandinavian kingdoms<sup>3</sup>. How then could warfare be carried on for three generations between Jutes and Swedes without concerning the Gotar, whose territory lay in between?

Again, in the "Catalogue of Kings" in *Widsith*, the Swedes are named with their famous king Ongentheow. The Jutes (*Țte*) are also mentioned, with *their* king. And their king is

<sup>1</sup> See pp. 8, 9 above, §§ 2-7

<sup>2</sup> Just as, for example, in *Heimskringla* *Haraldz saga ins harfagra*, 13-17, the Gotar are constantly mentioned, because the kingdom of Sweden is being attacked from their side.

<sup>3</sup> Procopius tells us that there were in Thule (i.e. the Scandinavian peninsula) thirteen nations, each under its own king βασιλεῖς τὲ εἰσι κατὰ ἔθνος ἕκαστον ὧν ἔθνος ἐν πολλάνθρωπον οἱ ταυτοὶ εἰσι (*Bell. Gott.* II, 15)

not Hrethel, Hæthcyn, Hygelac or Heardred, but a certain Gefwulf, whose name does not even alliterate with that of any known king of the Geatas<sup>1</sup>.

Again, in the (certainly very early) *Book on Monsters*, Hygelac is described as *Huglaucus qui imperavit Getis*. Now Getis can mean Götär<sup>2</sup>, but can hardly mean Jutes.

The geographical case against the identification of Geatas and Götär depends upon the assumption that the western sea-coast of the Götär in ancient times must have coincided with that of West-Gothland (Vestra-Gotland) in mediæval and modern times. Now as this coast consists merely of a small strip south of the river Götälv, it is argued that the Götär could not be the maritime Geatas of *Beowulf*, capable of undertaking a Viking raid to the mouth of the Rhine. But the assumption that the frontiers of the Götär about A.D. 500 were the same as they were a thousand years later, is not only improbable on *a priori* grounds, but, as Schuck has shown<sup>3</sup>, can be definitely disproved. Adam of Bremen, writing in the eleventh century, speaks of the river Gothelba (Götälv) as running through the midst of the peoples of the Götär. And the obvious connection between the name of the river and the name of the people seems to make it certain that Adam is right, and that the original Götär must have dwelt around the river Götälv. But, if so, then they were a maritime folk for the river Götälv is merely the outlet which connects Lake Wener with the sea, running a course almost parallel with the shore and nowhere very distant from it<sup>4</sup>. But even when Adam wrote, the

<sup>1</sup> On this alliteration test, which is very important, see above, pp. 10-11.

<sup>2</sup> *Geta* was the recognized Latin synonym for *Gothus*, and is used in this sense in the sixth century, e.g. by Venantius Fortunatus and Jordanes. And the Götär are constantly called *Gothi*, e.g. in the formula *rex Sueorum et Gothorum* (for the date of this formula see Söderqvist in the *Historisk Tidskrift*, 1915 *Äge Uppsvearne ratt att taga och vraka konung*), or Saxo, Bk. XIII (ed. Holder, p. 420, describing how the *Gothi* invited a candidate to be king, and slew the rival claimant, who was supported by the legally more constitutional suffrages of the Swedes), or Adam of Bremen (as quoted below).

<sup>3</sup> *Folknamnet Geatas*, p. 5 etc.

<sup>4</sup> Speaking of the Götälv, Adam says "Ille oritur in praedictis alpihus, perque medios Gothorum populos currit in Oceanum, unde et Gothelba dicitur." Adam Canonici Bremensis, *Gesta Hamm. eccl. pontificum*, Lib. IV, in Migne, OXLVI, 637. Modern scholars are of the opinion that the borrowing has been rather the other way. According to Noreen the river Götälv (Gautelfr) gets its name as the outflow from Lake Vener. (Cf. O.E. *gēotan*, *gʰat*, "pour") Gotland (Gautland) is the country around the river, and the Götär (Gautar)



Gotar to the north of the river had long been politically subject to Norway<sup>1</sup> and the *Heimskringla* tells us how this happened.

Harold Fairhair, King of Norway (a contemporary of King Alfred), attacked them: they had staked the river Gotaelv against him, but he moored his ships to the stakes<sup>2</sup> and harried *on either shore*. he fought far and wide in the country, had many battles *on either side of the river*, and finally slew the leader of the Gotar, Hraní Gauzki (the Gotlander). Then he annexed to Norway all the land north of the river and west of Lake Wener. Thenceforward the Gotaelv was the boundary between Norway and West Gothland, though the country ultimately became Swedish, as it now is. But it is abundantly clear from the *Heimskringla* that Harold regarded as hostile all the territory north of the Gotaelv, and between Lake Wener and the sea<sup>3</sup> (the old Ránríki and the modern Bohuslän).

But, if so, then the objection that the Gotar are not a sufficiently maritime people becomes untenable. For precisely to this region belong the earliest records of maritime warfare to be found in the north of Europe, possibly the earliest in Europe. The smooth rocks of Bohuslän are covered with incised pictures of the Bronze age and the favourite subject of these is ships and naval encounters. About 120 different pictures of ships and sea fights are reproduced by one scholar alone<sup>4</sup>. And at the present day this province of Goteborg and Bohus is the most important centre in Sweden both of fishery and shipping. Indeed, more than one quarter of the total tonnage of the modern Swedish mercantile marine comes from this comparatively tiny strip of coast<sup>5</sup>.

get their name from the country. See Noreen, *Våra Ortnamn och deras Ursprungliga Betydelse*, in *Språkda Studier*, II, 91, 139.

<sup>1</sup> The Scholast, in his commentary on Adam, records the later state of things, when the Gotar were confined to the south of the river: "Gothelba fluvius a Nordmannis Gothiam separat."

<sup>2</sup> *Heimskringla*, cap. 17.

<sup>3</sup> "Hann [Haraldr] er úti á herskipum allan vetrinn ok herjar á Ránríki" (cap. 15). "Haraldr konungr fór víða um Gautland herskildi, ok átti þar margar orrostur tveim megin elfarinnar. Síðan lagði Haraldr konungr land allt undir sik fyrir norðan elfina ok fyrir vestan Væni" (cap. 17) *Heimskringla*. *Haraldr saga vns harfagra*, udgiv F. Jónsson, København, 1893-1900.

<sup>4</sup> Baltzer (L.), *Glyphes des rochers du Bohuslän*, avec une préface de V. Rydberg, Gothembourg, 1881. See also Baltzer, *Några af de viktigaste Hällristningarna*, Göteborg, 1911.

<sup>5</sup> Guinchard, Sweden. *Historical and Statistical Handbook*, 1914, II, 549.

It is surely quite absurd to urge that the men of this coast could not have harried the Frisians in the manner in which Hygelac is represented as doing. And surely it is equally absurd to urge that the people of this coast would not have had to fear a return attack from the Frisians, after the downfall of their own kings. The Frisians seem to have been "the chief channel of communication between the North and West of Europe<sup>1</sup>" before the rise of the Scandinavian Vikings, and to have been supreme in the North Sea. The Franks were of course a land power, but the Franks, *when in alliance with the Frisians*, were by no means helpless at sea. Gregory of Tours tells us that they overthrew Hygelac on land, and *then in a sea fight annihilated his fleet*. Now the poet says that the Geatas may expect war when the Franks and Frisians hear of Beowulf's fall. The objection that, because they feared the Franks, the Geatas must have been reachable by land, depends upon leaving the "and Frisians" out of consideration.

"Now we may look for a time of war" says the messenger "when the fall of our king is known among the Franks and Frisians" then he gives a brief account of the raid upon the land of the Frisians and concludes "Ever since then has the favour of the Merovingian king been denied us<sup>2</sup>" What is there in this to indicate whether the raiders came from Jutland, or from the coast of the Gotar across the Cattegat, 50 miles further off? The messenger goes on to anticipate hostility from the Swedes<sup>3</sup>. To this, at any rate, the Gotar were more exposed than the Jutes. Further, he concludes by anticipating the utter overthrow of the Geatas<sup>4</sup> and the poet expressly tells us that these forebodings were justified<sup>5</sup>. There must therefore be a reference to some famous national catastrophe. Now the Gotar *did* lose their independence, and *were* incorporated into the Swedish kingdom. When did the Jutes suffer any similar downfall at the hands of either Frisians, Franks, or Swedes?

The other geographical and historical arguments urged in favour of the Jutes, when carefully scrutinized, are found either

<sup>1</sup> See Chadwick, *Origin*, 93, *Heroic Age*, 51

<sup>2</sup> ll 2910-21 See Schutte, 579, 583

<sup>4</sup> ll 3018-27.

<sup>3</sup> ll 2922-3007.

<sup>5</sup> ll 3029-30.

equally indecisive, or else actually to tell against the "Jute-theory" Schutte<sup>1</sup> thinks that the name "Wederas" (applied in *Beowulf* to the Geatas) is identical with the name *Eudoses* (that of a tribe mentioned by Tacitus, who *may*<sup>2</sup> have dwelt in Jutland) But this is impossible phonologically *Wederus* is surely a shortened form of *Weder-Gēatas*, "the Storm-Geatas." Indeed, we have, in favour of the Gotar-theory, the fact that the very name of the Wederas survives on the Bohuslan coast to this day, in the Wader Öar and the Wader Fiord

Advocates of the "Jute-theory" lay great stress upon the fact that Gregory of Tours and the *Liber Historiæ Francorum* call Hygelac a Dane<sup>3</sup> *Dani cum rege suo Chochilaico* Now, when Gregory wrote in the sixth century, either the Jutes were entirely distinct from, and independent of, the Danes, or they were not If they were distinct, how do Gregory's words help the "Jute-theory"? He must be simply using "Dane," like the Anglo-Saxon historians, for "Scandinavian" But if the Jutes were not distinct from the Danes, then we have an argument against the "Jute-theory" For we know from *Beowulf* that the Geatas were quite distinct from the Danes<sup>4</sup>, and quite independent of them<sup>5</sup>

It is repeatedly urged that the Geatas and Swedes fight *ofer sǣ*<sup>6</sup> But *sǣ* can mean a great fresh-water lake, like Lake Wener, just as well as the ocean<sup>7</sup> and as a matter of fact we know that the decisive battle did take place on Lake Wener, *in stagno Waener, á Vænis isi*<sup>8</sup> Lake Wener is an obvious battle place for Gotar and Swedes They were separated by the great and almost impassable forests of "Tived" and "Kolmård," and the lake was their simplest way of meeting<sup>9</sup>. But it does not equally fit Jutes and Swedes

It is repeatedly objected that the Gotar are remote from the Anglo-Saxons<sup>10</sup> Possibly but remoteness did not prevent

<sup>1</sup> pp 575, 581

<sup>2</sup> The reason for locating the *Eudoses* in Jutland is that the name has, very hazardingly, been identified with that of the Jutes, *Euthones* Obviously this argument could no longer be used, if the *Eudoses* were the "Wederas"

<sup>3</sup> See e.g. Schutte, 579-80

<sup>4</sup> *Beowulf*, 1856

<sup>5</sup> *Beowulf*, 1830 etc.

<sup>6</sup> *Beowulf*, 2394 See Schutte, 576-9

<sup>7</sup> *Sēo ēa þær wyrð micelne sǣ* (Orosius, ed Sweet, 12, 24)

<sup>8</sup> See above, p 7

<sup>9</sup> As Miss Paues, herself a *Geat*, points out to me.

<sup>10</sup> Kier, 39, Schutte, 582, 591 etc.

the Anglo-Saxons from being interested in heroes of the Huns or Goths or Burgundians or Longobards, who were much more<sup>1</sup> distant. And the absence of any direct connection between the history of the Geatas and the historic Anglo-Saxon records, affords a strong presumption that the Geatas *were* a somewhat alien people. If the people of Beowulf, Hygelac, and Hrethel, were the same people as the Jutes who colonized Kent and Hampshire, why do we never, in the Kentish royal genealogies or elsewhere, find any claim to such connection? The Mercians did not so forget their connection with the old Offa of Angel, although a much greater space of time had intervened. The fact that we have no mention among the ancestors of Beowulf and Hygelac of any names which we can connect with the Jutish genealogy affords, therefore, a strong presumption that they belonged to some other tribe.

The strongest historical argument for the "Jute-theory" was that produced by Bugge. The *Ynglinga tal* represents Ottar (who is certainly the Ohthere of *Beowulf*) as having fallen in Vendel, and this Vendel was clearly understood as being the district of that name in North Jutland. The body of this Swedish king was torn asunder by carrion birds, and he was remembered as "the Vendel-crow," a mocking nickname which pretty clearly goes back to primitive times. Other ancient authors attributed this name, not to Ottar, but to his father, who can be identified with the Ongentheow of *Beowulf*. This would seem to indicate that the hereditary foes of Ongentheow and the Swedish kings of his house were, after all, the Jutes of Vendel.

But Knut Stjerna has shown that the Vendel from which "Ottar Vendel-crow" took his name was probably not the Vendel of Jutland at all, but the place of that name north of Uppsala, famous for the splendid grave-finds which show it to have been of peculiar importance during our period<sup>2</sup>. And subsequent research has shown that a huge grave-mound, near this Vendel, is mentioned in a record of the seventeenth century as King

<sup>1</sup> See above, pp. 99, 100

<sup>2</sup> *Vendel och Vendelkråka* in *A f n F.* xxi, 71-80 see *Essays*, trans. Clark Hall, 50-62

Ottar's mound, and is still popularly known as the mound of Ottar Vendel-crow<sup>1</sup> But, if so, this story of the Vendel-crow, so far from supporting the "Jute-hypothesis," tells against it: nothing could be more suitable than Vendel, north of Uppsala, as the "last ditch" to which Ongentheow retreated, if we assume his adversaries to have been the Gotar. but it would not suit the Jutes so well

An exploration of the mound has proved beyond reasonable doubt that it *was* raised to cover the ashes of Ottar Vendel-crow, the Ohthere of *Beowulf*<sup>2</sup> That Ohthere fell in battle against the Geatas there is nothing, in *Beowulf* or elsewhere, to prove. But the fact that his ashes were laid in mound at Vendel in Sweden makes it unlikely that he fell in battle against the Jutes, and is quite incompatible with what we are told in the *Ynglinga saga* of his body having been torn to pieces by carrion fowl on a mound in Vendel in Jutland It now becomes clear that this story, and the tale of the crow of wood made by the Jutlanders in mockery of Ottar, is a mere invention to account for the name Vendel-crow. the name, as so often, has survived, and a new story has grown up to give a reason for the name.

What "Vendel-crow" originally implied we cannot be quite sure. Apparently "Crow" or "Vendel-crow" is used to this day as a nickname for the inhabitants of Swedish Vendel Ottar may have been so called because he was buried (possibly because he lived) in Vendel, not, like other members of his race, his son and his father, at Old Uppsala But however that may be, what is clear is that, as the name passed from the Swedes to those Norwegian and Icelandic writers who have handed it down

<sup>1</sup> This grave mound is mentioned as "Kong Ottars Hog" in *Altartalet för Svea och Gotha Kununga Hus*, by J Peringskiöld, Stockholm, 1725, p 13, and earlier, in 1677, it is mentioned by the same name in some notes of an antiquarian survey That the name "Vendel crow" is now attached to it is stated by Dr Almgren These early references seem conclusive little weight could, of course, be carried by the modern name alone, since it might easily be of learned origin The mound was opened in 1914-16, and the contents showed it to belong to about 500 to 550 A D, which agrees excellently with the date of Ohthere See two articles in *Fornvannen* for 1917 an account of the opening of the mound by S Lindqvist entitled "Ottarshögen i Vendel" (pp 127-43) and a discussion of early Swedish history in the light of archaeology, by B Nerman, "Ynglingasagan i arkeologisk belysning" (esp pp 243-6) See also Björkman in *Nordisk Tidskrift*, Stockholm, 1917, p. 169, and *Eigennamen i Beowulf*, 1920, pp 86-99

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix F *Beowulf* and the Archaeologists, esp p 356, below.

to us, Vendel of Sweden was naturally misunderstood as the more familiar Vendel of Jutland. Stjerna's conjecture is confirmed. The Swedish king's nickname, far from pointing to ancient feuds between Jute and Swede, is shown to have nothing whatsoever to do with Jutland.

It appears, then, that *Gēatas* is phonologically the equivalent of "Gotar," but not the equivalent of "Jutes", that what we know of the use of the word "Jutes" (*Iote*, etc.) in Old English makes it incredible that a poem of the length of *Beowulf* could be written, concerning their heroes and their wars, without even mentioning them by their correct name, that in many respects the geographical and historical evidence fits the Gotar, but does *not* fit the Jutes, that the instances to the contrary, in which it is claimed that the geographical and historical evidence fits the Jutes but does not fit the Gotar, are all found on examination to be either inconclusive or actually to favour the Gotar.

#### F. BEOWULF AND THE ARCHÆOLOGISTS

The peat-bogs of Schleswig and Denmark have yielded finds of the first importance for English archæology. These "moss-finds" are great collections, chiefly of arms and accoutrements, obviously deposited with intention. The first of these great discoveries, that of Thorsbjerg, was made in the heart of ancient Angel; the site of the next, Nydam, also comes within the area probably occupied by either Angles or Jutes, and most of the rest of the "moss-finds" were in the closest neighbourhood of the old Anglian home. The period of the oldest deposits, as is shown by the Roman coins found among them, is hardly before the third century A.D., and some authorities would make it considerably later.

An account of these discoveries will be found in Engelhardt's *Denmark in the Early Iron Age*<sup>1</sup>, 1866, a volume which sum-

<sup>1</sup> By the Early Iron Age, Engelhardt meant from 250 to 450 A.D. but more recent Danish scholars have placed these deposits in the fifth century, with some overlapping into the preceding and succeeding centuries (Müller, *Vor Oldtid*, 561, Wimmer, *Die Runenschrift*, 301, etc.). The Swedish archæologists, Knut Stjerna and O. Almqvist, agree with Engelhardt, dating the finds between about 250 and 450 A.D. (Stjerna's *Essays*, trans. Clark Hall, p. 149, and *Introduction*, xxxii-iii).

marizes the results of Engelhardt's investigations during the preceding seven years. He had published in Copenhagen *Thorsbjerg Mosefund*, 1863, *Nydam Mosefund*, 1865. Engelhardt's work at Nydam was interrupted by the war of 1864—the finds had to be ceded to Germany, and the exploration was continued by German scholars. Engelhardt consoled himself that these "subsequent investigations do not seem to have been carried on with the necessary care and intelligence," and continued his own researches within the narrowed frontiers of Denmark, publishing two monographs on the mounds of Funen. *Kragehul Mosefund*, 1867, *Vimose Fundet*, 1869.

These deposits, however, obviously belong to a period much earlier than that in which *Beowulf* was written—indeed most of them certainly belong to a period earlier than that in which the historic events described in *Beowulf* occurred, so that, close as is their relation with Anglian civilization, it is with the civilization of the Angles while still on the continent.

The Archaeology of *Beowulf* has been made the subject of special study by Knut Stjerna, in a series of articles which appeared between 1903 and his premature death in 1909. A good service has been done to students of *Beowulf* by Dr Clark Hall in collecting and translating Stjerna's essays<sup>1</sup>. They are a mine of useful information, and the reproductions of articles from Scandinavian grave-finds, with which they are so copiously illustrated, are invaluable. The magnificent antiquities from Vendel, now in the Stockholm museum, are more particularly laid under contribution<sup>2</sup>. Dr Clark Hall added a most useful "Index of things mentioned in *Beowulf*"<sup>3</sup>, well illustrated. Here again the illustrations, with few exceptions, are from Scandinavian finds.

<sup>1</sup> *Essays on questions connected with the O.E. poem of Beowulf*, trans. and ed. by John R. Clark Hall, (Viking Club), Coventry. (Reviews by Klaeber, *JEGPh* XIII, 167-73; weighty, Mawer, *MLN* VIII, 242-3, *Athenæum*, 1913, I, 459-60, *Archiv*, CXXXII, 238-9, Schutte, *AfnF* XXXIII, 64-96, elaborate.)

<sup>2</sup> An account of these was given at the time by H. Stolpe, who undertook the excavation. See his *Vendelbyndet*, in the *Antiquarisk Tidskrift för Sverige*, VIII, 1, 1-34, and Hildebrand (H.) in the same, 35-64 (1884). Stolpe did not live to issue the definitive account of his work, *Graffallet vid Vendel, beskrivet af H. Stolpe och T. J. Arne*, Stockholm, 1912.

<sup>3</sup> Also added as an Appendix to his *Beowulf* translation, 1911.

Two weighty arguments as to the origin of *Beowulf* have been based upon archæology. In the first place it has been urged by Dr Clark Hall that

“If the poem is read in the light of the evidence which Stjerna has marshalled in the essays as to the profusion of gold, the prevalence of ring-swords, of boar-helmets, of ring-corslets, and ring-money, it becomes clear how strong the distinctively Scandinavian colouring is, and how comparatively little of the *mise-en-scène* must be due to the English author<sup>1</sup>”

Equally, Prof. Klaeber finds in Stjerna's investigations a strong argument for the Scandinavian character of *Beowulf*<sup>2</sup>

Now Stjerna, very rightly and naturally, drew his illustrations of *Beowulf* from those Scandinavian, and especially Swedish, grave-finds which he knew so well and very valuable those illustrations are. But it does not follow, because the one archæologist who has chosen to devote his knowledge so wholeheartedly to the elucidation of *Beowulf* was a Scandinavian, using Scandinavian material, that therefore *Beowulf* is Scandinavian. This, however, is the inference which Stjerna himself was apt to draw, and which is still being drawn from his work. Stjerna speaks of our poem as a monument raised by the Geatas to the memory of their saga-renowned king<sup>3</sup>, though he allows that certain features of the poem, such as the dragon-fight<sup>4</sup>, are of Anglo-Saxon origin.

Of course, it must be allowed that accounts such as those of the fighting between Swedes and Geatas, if they are historical (and they obviously are), must have originated from eye-witnesses of the Scandinavian battles but I doubt if there is anything in *Beowulf* so purely Scandinavian as to compel us to assume that any line of the story, in the poetical form in which we now have it, was *necessarily* composed in Scandinavia. Even if it could be shown that the conditions depicted in *Beowulf* can be better illustrated from the grave-finds of Vendel in Sweden than from English diggings, this would not prove *Beowulf* Scandinavian. Modern scientific archæology is surely based on chronology as well as geography. The English finds date from

<sup>1</sup> Clark Hall's *Preface to Stjerna's Essays*, p. xx.

<sup>2</sup> *J E G Ph* xiii, 1914, p. 172.

<sup>3</sup> *Essays*, p. 239 cf. p. 84.

<sup>4</sup> p. 39.



the period before 650 A.D., and the Vendel finds from the period after. *Beowulf* might well show similarity rather with contemporary art abroad than with the art of earlier generations at home. For intercourse was more general than is always realized. It was not merely trade and plunder which spread fashions from nation to nation. There were the presents of arms which Tacitus mentions as sent, not only privately, but with public ceremony, from one tribe to another<sup>1</sup>. Similar presentations are indicated in *Beowulf*<sup>2</sup>, we find them equally at the court of the Ostrogothic Theodoric<sup>3</sup>, Charles the Great sent to Offa of Mercia *unum balteum et unum gladium hunsicum*<sup>4</sup>, according to the famous story in the *Heimskringla*, Athelstan sent to Harold Fairhair of Norway a sword and belt arrayed with gold and silver, Athelstan gave Harold's son Hakon a sword which was the best that ever came to Norway<sup>5</sup>. It is not surprising, then, if we find parallels between English poetry and Scandinavian grave-finds, both apparently dating from about the year 700 A.D. But I do not think that there is any special resemblance, though, both in *Beowulf* and in the Vendel graves, there is a profusion lacking in the case of the simpler Anglo-Saxon tomb-furniture.

Let us examine the five points of special resemblance, alleged by Dr Clark Hall, on the basis of Stjerna's studies

"The profusion of gold." Gold is indeed lavishly used in *Beowulf*. the golden treasure found in the dragon's lair was so bulky that it had to be transported by waggon. And, certainly, gold is found in greater profusion in Swedish than in English graves. the most casual visitor to the Stockholm museum must be impressed by the magnificence of the exhibits there. But, granting gold to have been rarer in England than in Sweden, I cannot grant Stjerna's contention that therefore an English poet could not have conceived the idea of a vast gold hoard<sup>6</sup>, or that, even if the poet does deck his warriors with gold somewhat more sumptuously than was actually the case in England,

<sup>1</sup> *Germania*, cap. xv

<sup>2</sup> ll. 378, 470

<sup>3</sup> Cassiodorus, *Variae*, v, 1

<sup>4</sup> Walter, *Corpus juris Germanici antiqui*, 1824, II, 125

<sup>5</sup> *Heimskringla*, *Haraldz saga*, cap. 38-40

<sup>6</sup> "The idea of a gold hoard undoubtedly points to the earlier version of the *Beowulf* poem having originated in Scandinavia. No such 'gold period' ever existed in Britain." *Essays*, p. 147

we can draw any argument from it. For, if the dragon in *Beowulf* guards a treasure, so equally does the typical dragon of Old English proverbial lore<sup>1</sup>. *Beowulf* is spoken of as *gold-wlanc*, but the typical thegn in *Finnsburg* is called *gold-hladen*<sup>2</sup>. The sword found by *Beowulf* in the hall of Grendel's mother has a golden hilt, but the English proverb had it that "gold is in its place on a man's sword"<sup>3</sup>. *Heorot* is hung with golden tapestry, but gold-inwoven fabric has been unearthed from Saxon graves at Taplow, and elsewhere in England<sup>4</sup>. Gold glitters in other poems quite as lavishly as in *Beowulf*, sometimes more so. *Widsith* made a hobby of collecting golden *bēagas*. The subject of *Waldere* is a fight for treasure. The byrnie of *Waldere*<sup>5</sup> is adorned with gold so is that of Holofernes in *Judith*<sup>6</sup>, so is that of the typical warrior in the *Elene*<sup>7</sup>. Are all these poems Scandinavian?

"The prevalence of ring-swords." We know that swords were sometimes fitted with a ring in the hilt<sup>8</sup>. It is not clear whether the object of this ring was to fasten the hilt by a strap to the wrist, for convenience in fighting (as has been the custom with the cavalry sword in modern times) or whether it was used to attach the "peace bands," by which the hilt of the sword was sometimes fixed to the scabbard, when only being worn ceremonially<sup>9</sup>. The word *hring-mæl*, applied three times to the sword in *Beowulf*, has been interpreted as a reference to these "ring-swords," though it is quite conceivable that it may refer only to the damascening of the sword with a ringed pattern<sup>10</sup>. Assuming that the reference in *Beowulf* is to a "ring-sword," Stjerna illustrates the allusion from seven ring-swords, or fragments of ring-swords, found in Sweden. But, as Dr Clark Hall himself points out (whilst oddly enough accepting this argument

<sup>1</sup> *Cottonian Gnostic Verses*, II 26-7.

<sup>2</sup> I 14

<sup>3</sup> *Ezeter Gnostic Verses*, I 126

<sup>4</sup> Baldwin Brown, III, 385, IV, 640

<sup>5</sup> B I 19

<sup>6</sup> I 339

<sup>7</sup> I 991

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Falk, *Altnordische Waffenkunde*, 28

<sup>9</sup> I would suggest this as the more likely because, if the ring were inserted for a practical purpose, it is not easy to see why it later survived in the form of a mere knob, which is neither useful nor ornamental. But if it were used to attach the symbolical "peace bands," it may have been retained, in a "fossilized form," with a symbolical meaning.

<sup>10</sup> Most editors indeed do take it in this sense, though recently Schucking has adopted Stjerna's explanation of "ring sword." In I 322, Falk (27) takes *hring iren* to refer to a "ring-adorned sword," though it may well mean a ring-byrnie.

as proof of the Scandinavian colouring of *Beowulf*) four ring-swords at least have been found in England<sup>1</sup>. And these English swords are *real* ring-swords, that is to say, the pommel is furnished with a ring, within which another ring moves (in the oldest type of sword) quite freely. This freedom of movement seems, however, to be gradually restricted, and in one of these English swords the two rings are made in one and the same piece. In the Swedish swords, however, this restriction is carried further, and the two rings are represented by a knob growing out of a circular base. Another sword of this "knob"-type has recently been found in a Frankish tomb<sup>2</sup>, and yet another in the Rhineland<sup>3</sup>. It seems to be agreed among archæologists that the English type, as found in Kent, is the original, and that the Swedish and continental "ring-swords" are merely imitations, in which the ring has become conventionalized into a knob<sup>4</sup>. But, if so, how can the mention of a ring-sword in *Beowulf* (if indeed that be the meaning of *hring-mæl*) prove Scandinavian colouring? If it proved anything (which it does not) it would tend to prove the reverse, and to locate *Beowulf* in Kent, where the true ring-swords have been found.

"The prevalence of boar-helmets" It is true that several representations of warriors wearing boar-helmets have been found in Scandinavia. But the only certainly Anglo-Saxon

<sup>1</sup> Actually, I believe, more for two ring swords were found at Faversham, and are now in the British Museum. For an account of one of them see Roach Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua*, 1868, vol. vi, 139. In this specimen both the fixed ring and the ring which moves within it are complete circles. But in the Gilton sword (*Archæologia*, xxx, 132) and in the sword discovered at Bifrons (*Archæologia Cantiana*, x, 312) one of the rings no longer forms a complete circle, and in the sword discovered at Sarre (*Archæol. Cant.* vi, 172) the rings are fixed together, and one of them has little resemblance to a ring at all.

<sup>2</sup> At Concevreux. It is described by M. Jules Pilloy in *Mémoires de la Société Académique de St. Quentin*, 4<sup>e</sup> Sér. tom. xvi, 1913, see esp. pp. 36-7.

<sup>3</sup> See Lindenschmit, "Germanisches Schwert mit ungewöhnlicher Bildung des Knaufes," in *Die Altertümer unserer heidnischen Vorzeit*, v Bd., v Heft, Taf. 30, p. 165, Mainz, 1905.

<sup>4</sup> Salin has no doubt that the Swedish type from Uppland (his figure 252) is later than even the latest type of English ring sword (the Sarre pommel, 251) which is itself later than the Faversham (249) or Bifrons (250) pommel. See Salin (B.), *Die Altgermanische Thierornamentik*, Stockholm, 1904, p. 101. The same conclusion is arrived at by Lindenschmit: "Die ursprüngliche Form ist wohl in dem, unter Nr. 249 von Salin abgebildeten Schwertknopf aus Kent zu sehen"; and even more emphatically by Pilloy, who proclaims the Swedish Vendel sword both on account of its "ring", and other characteristics, as "inspirée par un modèle venu de cette contrée [Angleterre]"

helmet yet found in England has a boar-crest<sup>1</sup>; and this is, I believe, the only actual boar-helmet yet found. How then can the boar-helmets of *Beowulf* show Scandinavian rather than Anglo-Saxon origin?

"The prevalence of ring-corslets" It is true that only one trace of a byrnie, and that apparently not of ring-mail, has so far been found in an Anglo-Saxon grave. (We have somewhat more abundant remains from the period prior to the migration to England a peculiarly fine corslet of ring-mail, with remains of some nine others, was found in the moss at Thorsbjerg<sup>2</sup> in the midst of the ancient Anglian continental home, and other ring-corslets have been found in the neighbourhood of Angel, at Vimose<sup>3</sup> in Funen) But, for the period when *Beowulf* must have been composed, the ring-corslet is almost as rare in Scandinavia as in England<sup>4</sup>, the artist, however, seems to be indicating a byrnie upon many of the warriors depicted on the Vendel helm (Grave 14 seventh century) Equally, in England, warriors are represented on the Franks Casket as wearing the byrnie also the laws of Ine (688-95) make it clear that the byrnie was by no means unknown<sup>5</sup> Other Old English poems, certainly not Scandinavian, mention the ring-byrnie How then can the mention of it in *Beowulf* be a proof of Scandinavian origin?

"The prevalence of ring-money" Before minted money became current, rings were used everywhere among the Teutonic peoples Gold rings, *intertwined* so as to form a chain, have been found throughout Scandinavia, presumably for use as a medium of exchange The term *locenra bēaga* (gen. plu.) occurs in *Beowulf*, and this is interpreted by Stjerna as "rings intertwined or locked together<sup>6</sup>." But *locen* in *Beowulf* need not have the meaning of "intertwined", it occurs elsewhere in Old English of a single jewel, *sincgum locen*<sup>7</sup> Further, even if *locen* does mean "inter-

<sup>1</sup> The Benty Grange helmet, see below, p. 358

<sup>2</sup> Depicted by Clark Hall, Stjerna's *Essays*, p. 258

<sup>3</sup> Clark Hall's *Beowulf*, p. 227

<sup>4</sup> "Von Skandinavien gibt es aus der Volkerwanderungszeit und Wikinger epoche keine archaologischen Anhaltspunkte für das Tragen des Panzers, weder aus Funden noch aus Darstellungen," Max Ebert in Hoops' *Reallexikon*, III, 395 (1915-16) But surely this is too sweeping Fragments of an iron byrnie, made of small rings fastened together, were found in the Vendel grave 12 (seventh century) See *Graffallet vid Vendel, beskrivet af H. Stolpe och T. J. Arne*, pp. 49, 60, plates xl, xli, xlii

<sup>5</sup> 54-1. Liebermann, p. 114.

<sup>6</sup> *Essays*, 34-5.

<sup>7</sup> *Elene*, 264

twined," such intertwined rings are not limited to Scandinavia proper. They have been found in Schleswig<sup>1</sup>. And almost the very phrase in *Beowulf*, *londes ne locenra bēaga*<sup>2</sup>, recurs in the *Andreas*. The phrase there may be imitated from *Beowulf*, but, equally, the phrase in *Beowulf* may be imitated from some earlier poem. In fact, it is part of the traditional poetic diction: but its occurrence in the *Andreas* shows that it cannot be used as an argument of Scandinavian origin.

Whilst, therefore, accepting with gratitude the numerous illustrations which Stjerna has drawn from Scandinavian grave-finds, we must be careful not to read a Scandinavian colouring into features of *Beowulf* which are at least as much English as Scandinavian, such as the ring-sword or the boar-helmet or the ring-corslet.

There is, as is noted above, a certain atmosphere of profusion and wealth about some Scandinavian grave-finds, which corresponds much more nearly with the wealthy life depicted in *Beowulf* than does the comparatively meagre tomb-furniture of England. But we must remember that, after the spread of Christianity in the first half of the seventh century, the custom of burying articles with the bodies of the dead naturally ceased, or almost ceased, in England. Scandinavia continued heathen for another four hundred years, and it was during these years that the most magnificent deposits were made. As Stjerna himself points out, "a steadily increasing luxury in the appointment of graves" is to be found in Scandinavia in these centuries before the introduction of Christianity there. When we find in Scandinavia things (complete ships, for example) which we do not find in England, we owe this, partly to the nature of the soil in which they were embedded, but also to the continuance of such burial customs after they had died out in England.

Helm and byrnie were not necessarily unknown, or even very rare in England, simply because it was not the custom to bury them with the dead. On the other hand, the frequent mention of them in *Beowulf* does not imply that they were common for

<sup>1</sup> Engelhardt, *Denmark in the Early Iron Age*, p. 66

<sup>2</sup> *Andreas*, 303

*Beowulf* deals only with the aristocratic adherents of a court, and even in *Beowulf* fine specimens of the helm and byrnie are spoken of as things which a king seeks far and wide to procure for his retainers<sup>1</sup> We cannot, therefore, argue that there is any discrepancy However, if we do so argue, it would merely prove, not that *Beowulf* is Scandinavian as opposed to English, but that it is comparatively late in date. Tacitus emphasizes the fact that spear and shield were the Teutonic weapons, that helmet and corslet were hardly known<sup>2</sup>. Pagan graves show that at any rate they were hardly known as tomb-furniture in England in the fifth, sixth, and early seventh centuries The introduction of Christianity, and the intercourse with the South which it involved, certainly led to the growth of pomp and wealth in England, till the early eighth century became "the golden age of Anglo-Saxon England"

It might therefore conceivably be argued that *Beowulf* reflects the comparative abundance of early Christian England, as opposed to the more primitive heathen simplicity, but to argue a Scandinavian origin from the profusion of *Beowulf* admits of an easy *reductio ad absurdum* For the same arguments would prove a heathen, Scandinavian origin for the *Andreas*, the *Elene*, the *Exodus*, or even for the Franks Casket, despite its Anglo-Saxon inscription and Christian carvings

However, though the absence of helm and byrnie from Anglo-Saxon graves does not prove that these arms were not used by the living in heathen times, one thing it assuredly *does* prove that the Anglo-Saxons in heathen times did not sacrifice helm and byrnie recklessly in funeral pomp. And this brings us to the second argument as to the origin of *Beowulf* which has been based on archæology.

Something has been said above of this second contention<sup>3</sup>—that the accuracy of the account of *Beowulf*'s funeral is confirmed in every point by archæological evidence that it must

<sup>1</sup> l 2869

<sup>2</sup> "Few have corslets and only one here and there a helmet" (*Germania*, 6) In the *Annals* (II, 14) Tacitus makes Germanicus roundly deny the use of either by the Germans *non lorica Germano, non galeam*

<sup>3</sup> See above, p 124

therefore have been composed within living memory of a time when ceremonies of this kind were still actually in use in England and that therefore we cannot date *Beowulf* later than the third or fourth decade of the seventh century

To begin with, the pyre in *Beowulf* is represented as hung with helmets, bright byrnies, and shields. Now it is impossible to say exactly how the funeral pyres were equipped in England. But we *do* know how the buried bodies were equipped. And (although inhumation cemeteries are much more common than cremation cemeteries) all the graves that have been opened have so far yielded only one case of a helmet and byrnie being buried with the warrior, and one other very doubtful case of a helmet without the byrnie. Abroad, instances are somewhat more common, but still of great rarity. For such things could ill be spared. Charles the Great forbade the export of byrnies from his dominions. Worn by picked champions fighting in the forefront, they might well decide the issue of a battle. In the mounds where we have reason to think that the great chiefs mentioned in *Beowulf*, Eadgils or Ohthere, he buried, any trace of weapons was conspicuously absent among the burnt remains. Nevertheless, the belief that his armour would be useful to the champion in the next life, joined perhaps with a feeling that it was unlucky, or unfair on the part of the survivor to deprive the dead of his personal weapons, led in heathen times to the occasional burial of these treasures with the warrior who owned them. The fifth century tomb of Childeric I, when discovered twelve centuries later, was found magnificently furnished—the prince had been buried with treasure and much equipment<sup>1</sup>, sword, scramasax<sup>2</sup>, axe, spear. But these were his own. Similarly, piety might have demanded that Beowulf should be burnt with his full equipment. But would the pyre have been hung with helmets and byrnies? Whose? Were the thegns asked to sacrifice theirs, and go naked into the next fight in honour of their lord? If so, what archæological authority have we for such a custom in England?

<sup>1</sup> See Chifflet, J. J., *Anastasis Childerici I. sive thesaurus sepulchralis*, Antverpiæ, Plantin, 1655.

<sup>2</sup> That both sword and scramasax were buried with Childeric is shown by Lindenschmit, *Handbuch*, I, 236-9 see also pp. 68 etc.

Then the barrow is built, and the vast treasure of the dragon (which included "many a helmet<sup>1</sup>") placed in it. Now there are instances of articles which have not passed through the fire being placed in or upon or around an urn with the cremated bones<sup>2</sup>. But is there any instance of the thing being done on this scale—of a wholesale burning of helmets and byrnie<sup>3</sup>s followed by a burial of huge treasure? If so, one would like to know when, and where. If not, how can it be argued that the account in *Beowulf* is one of which "the accuracy is confirmed in every point by archæological or contemporary literary evidence?" Rather we must say, with Knut Stjerna, that it is "too much of a good thing<sup>3</sup>"

For the antiquities of Anglo-Saxon England, the student should consult the *Victoria County History*. The two splendid volumes of Professor G. Baldwin Brown on *Saxon Art and Industry in the Pagan Period*<sup>4</sup> at length enable the general reader to get a survey of the essential facts, for which up to now he has had to have recourse to innumerable scattered treatises. *The Archæology of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements* by Mr E. Thurlow Leeds will also be found helpful.

Side-lights from the field of Teutonic antiquities in general can be got from Prof. Baldwin Brown's *Arts and Crafts of our Teutonic Forefathers*, 1910, and from Lindenschmit's *Handbuch der deutschen Alterthumskunde, I Theil Die Alterthümer der Merowingischen Zeit* (Braunschweig, 1880-89), a book which is still indispensable. Hoops' *Reallexikon der germanischen Alterthumskunde*, Strassburg, 1911-19, 4 vols., includes a large number of contributions of the greatest importance to the student of *Beowulf*, both upon archæological and other subjects. By the completion<sup>5</sup> of this most valuable work, amid heart-breaking difficulties, Prof. Hoops has placed all students under a great obligation.

Much help can be got from an examination of the antiquities of Teutonic countries other than England. The following books are useful—for Norway

<sup>1</sup> l. 2762-3

<sup>2</sup> Worsaae, *Nordiske Oldsager*, Kjøbenhavn, 1859, see No. 499, Roach Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua*, 1852, II, 164, Montelius, *Antiq. Sued.* 1873 No. 294 (p. 184).

<sup>3</sup> *Essays*, p. 198. See also above, p. 124. Mr. Reginald Smith writes to me "Unburnt objects with cremated burials in prehistoric times (Bronze, Early and Late Iron Ages) are the exception, and are probably accidental survivals from the funeral pyre. In such an interpretation of *Beowulf* I agree with the late Knut Stjerna, who was an archæologist of much experience."

<sup>4</sup> Forming vols. 3 and 4 of *The Arts in Early England*, 1903-15.

<sup>5</sup> It was, however, necessary to leave over for a supplementary volume some of the contributions most interesting from the point of view of the archæology of *Beowulf*—e.g. spatha, spear, shield.



Gustafson (G), *Norges Oldtid*, 1906, for Denmark Muller (S), *Vor Oldtid*, 1897, for Sweden. Montelius (O), *Civilization of Sweden in Heathen Times*, 1888, *Kulturgeschichte Schwedens*, 1906, for Schleswig Mestorf (J), *Vorgeschichtliche Alterthümer aus Schleswig*, for the Germanic nations in their wanderings on the outskirts of the Roman Empire Hampel (J.), *Alterthümer des frühen Mittelalters in Ungarn*, 3 Bde, 1905, for Germanic remains in Gaul Barrière-Flavy (M C), *Les Arts industriels des peuples barbares de la Gaule du V<sup>m</sup> au VIII<sup>m</sup> siècle*, 3 tom. 1901

Somewhat popular accounts, and now rather out of date, are the two South Kensington handbooks Worsaae (J J A); *Industrial Arts of Denmark*, 1882, and Hildebrand (H), *Industrial Arts of Scandinavia*, 1883

### *Scandinavian Burial Mounds*

The three great "Kings' Mounds" at Old Uppsala were explored between 1847 and 1874 cremated remains from them can be seen in the Stockholm Museum An account of the tunnelling, and of the complicated structure of the mounds, was given in 1876 by the Swedish State-Antiquary<sup>1</sup>. From these finds Knut Stjerna dated the oldest of the "Kings' Mounds" about 500 A D<sup>2</sup>, and the others somewhat later Now, as we are definitely told that Athils (Eadgils) and the two kings who figure in the list of Swedish monarchs as his grandfather and great-grandfather (Egil and Aun) were "laid in mound" at Uppsala<sup>3</sup>, and as the chronology agrees, it seems only reasonable to conclude that the three Kings' Mounds were raised over these three kings<sup>4</sup>

That Athils' father Ottar (Ohthere) was not regarded as having been buried at Uppsala is abundantly clear from the account given of his death, and of his nickname Vendel-crow<sup>5</sup> A mound near Vendel north of Uppsala is known by his name Such names are often the result of quite modern antiquarian conjecture but that such is not the case here was proved by the recent discovery that an antiquarian survey (preserved in MS in the Royal Library at Stockholm) dating from 1677, mentions in Vendel "with Hussby, [en] stor jorde hogh, som heeter Otters hogen"<sup>6</sup> An exploration of Ottar's mound showed a striking similarity with the Uppsala mounds The structure was the same, a cairn of stones covered over with earth, the

<sup>1</sup> B E Hildebrand, *Gråshögarna vid Gamla Uppsala*, *Kongl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademins Månadsblad*, 1875-7, pp 250-60

<sup>2</sup> *Fasta fornminningar i Beowulf*, in *Antikvarisk Tidskrift för Sverige*, XVIII, 48-64

<sup>3</sup> *Heimskringla Ynglingasaga*, cap 25, 26, 29

<sup>4</sup> See B Nerman, *Vilka konungar ligga i Uppsala högar?* Uppsala, 1913, and the same scholar's *Ynglingasagan i arkeologisk belysning*, in *Fornvannen* 1917, 228-61

<sup>5</sup> *Heimskringla Ynglingasaga*, cap 27

<sup>6</sup> A discovery made by Otto v. Friesen in 1910 see S Lindqvist in *Fornvannen*, 1917, 129 Two years earlier (1875) "Utters högen i Wandell" is mentioned in connection with an investigation into witchcraft See Linderholm, *Vendelshögens konunganamn*, in *Namn och Bygd*, vii, 1919, 36, 40

cremated remains were similar, there were abundant traces of burnt animals, a comb, half-spherical draughts with two round holes hored in the flat side, above all, there was in neither case any trace of weapons. In Ottar's mound a gold Byzantine coin was found, pierced, having evidently been used as an ornament. It can be dated 477-8, it is much worn, but such coins seldom remained in the North in use for a century after their minting<sup>1</sup>. Ottar's mound obviously, then, belongs to the same period as the Uppsala mounds, and confirms the date attributed by Stjerna to the oldest of those mounds, about 500 A.D.

### Weapons

For weapons in general see Lehmann (H.), *Über die Waffen im angelsächsischen Beowulfede*, in *Germania*, LXXI, 486-97, Keller (May L.), *The Anglo-Saxon weapon names treated archaeologically and etymologically*, Heidelberg, 1906 (*Anglistische Forschungen*, xv. cf. Holthausen, *Anglia*, Beiblatt, XVIII, 65-9, Binz, *Litteraturblatt*, LXXI, 98-100), †Wagner (R.), *Die Angriffswaffen der Angelsächsischen*, Diss., Königsberg, and especially Falk (H.), *Alt-nordische Waffenkunde*, in *Videnskapsselskapets Skrifter, Hist.-Filos. Klasse*, 1914, Kristiania.

**The Sword** The sword of the Anglo-Saxon pagan period (from the fifth to the seventh century) "is deficient in quality as a blade, and also in the character of its hilt<sup>2</sup>". In this it contrasts with the sword found in the peat-hogs of Schleswig from an earlier period "these swords of the Schleswig moss-finds are much better weapons<sup>3</sup>", as well as with the later Viking sword of the ninth or tenth century, which "is a remarkably effective and well-considered implement<sup>4</sup>". It has been suggested that both the earlier Schleswig swords and the later Viking swords (which bear a considerable likeness to each other, as against the inferior Anglo-Saxon sword) are the product of intercourse with Romanized peoples<sup>5</sup>, whilst the typical Anglo-Saxon sword "may represent an independent Germanic effort at sword making<sup>6</sup>". However this may be, it is noteworthy that nowhere in *Beowulf* do we have any hint of the skill of any sword-smith who is regarded as contemporary. A good sword is always "an old herloom," "an ancient treasure". The sword of Wiglaf, which had belonged to Eanmund, and the sword with which Eofor slays Ongentheow, are

<sup>1</sup> For a preliminary account of the discovery, see *Ottarshögen i Vendel*, by S. Lindqvist in *Fornvannen*, 1917, 127-43, and for discussion of the whole subject, B. Nerman, *Ottar Vendelkråka och Ottarshögen i Vendel*, in *Upplands Fornminnesförenings Tidskrift*, VII, 309-34.

<sup>2</sup> Baldwin Brown, III, 216.

<sup>3</sup> 213

<sup>4</sup> 218

<sup>5</sup> So Baldwin Brown, III, 213, Lorange, *Den Yngre Jernalders Sværd*, Bergen, 1889, *passim*.

<sup>6</sup> Baldwin Brown, III, 215.

<sup>7</sup> It is somewhat similar in Norse literature, where swords are constantly indicated as either inherited from of old, or coming from abroad. cf. Falk, 38-41.

described by the phrase *ealdsweord eotenisc*, as if they were weapons of which the secret and origin had been lost—indeed the same phrase is applied to the magic sword which Beowulf finds in the hall of Grendel's mother

The blade of these ancestral swords was sometimes damascened or adorned with wave-like patterns<sup>1</sup> The swords of the Schleswig moss-finds are almost all thus adorned with a variegated surface, as often are the later Viking swords, but those of the Anglo-Saxon graves are *not* Is it fanciful to suggest that the reference to damascening is a tradition coming down from the time of the earlier sword as found in the Nydam moss? A few early swords might have been preserved among the invaders as family heirlooms, too precious to be buried with the owner, as the product of the local weapon smith was

See, for a full discussion of the sword in *Beowulf*, Stjerna, *Hjalmar och svärd i Beowulf* (*Studier tillagnade O Montelius*, Stockholm, pp 99-120 = *Essays*, transl Clark Hall, pp 1-32) The standard treatise on the sword, *Den Yngre Jernalders Sværd*, Bergen, 1889, by A. L. Lorange, deals mainly with a rather later period.

**The Helmet** The helmet found at Benty Grange in Derbyshire in 1848 is now in the Sheffield Museum<sup>2</sup> little remains except the boar-crest, the nose-piece, and the framework of iron ribs radiating from the crown, and fixed to a circle of iron surrounding the brow (perhaps the *fræaurðsn* of *Beowulf*, 1451) Mr Bateman, the discoverer, described the helmet as "orated with narrow plates of horn, running in a diagonal direction from the ribs, so as to form a herring-bone pattern, the ends were secured by strips of horn, radiating in like manner as the iron ribs, to which they were riveted at intervals of about an inch and a half all the rivets had ornamented heads of silver on the outside, and on the front rib is a small cross of the same metal Upon the top or crown of the helmet, is an elongated oval brass plate, upon which stands the figure of an animal, carved in iron, now much rusted, but still a very good representation of a pig it has bronze eyes<sup>3</sup>" Helmets of very similar construction, but without the boar, have been found on the Continent and in Scandinavia (Vendel, Grave 14, late seventh century) The continental helmets often

<sup>1</sup> *Beowulf*, 1489, *wægsweord*, cf *Vægir* as a sword-name in the *Thulur* II 1521, 1564, 2037, *hringmæl* may refer to the ring in the hilt, and terms like *wunden* are more likely to refer to the serpentine ornament of the hilt This must be the case with *wyrn fāh* (1698) as it is a question of the hilt alone Stjerna (p 111 = *Essays*, 20) and others take *āter tǣnum fāh* (1459) as referring to the damascened pattern (cf *eggjar eutdropom innan fafar, Brot af Sigurðar kvíðu*) It is suggested however by Falk (p 17) that *tǣn* here refers to an edge welded-on the Icelandic *egg-teinn*

<sup>2</sup> The only certainly Anglo Saxon helmet as yet discovered traces of what may have been a similar head-piece were found near Cheltenham Roach Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua*, II, 1852, 238

<sup>3</sup> *Coll Ant* II, 1852 239, Bateman, *Ten Years' Diggings*, 30, *Catalogue of the Antiquities preserved in the Museum of Thomas Bateman*, Bakewell, 1855

stand higher<sup>1</sup> than the Benty Grange or Vendel specimens, being sometimes quite conical (cf. the epithet "war-steep," *heaðo-stēap*, *Beowulf*). Many of the continental helmets are provided with cheek-protections, and these also appear in the Scandinavian representations of warriors on the Torslunda plates and elsewhere. These side pieces have become detached from the magnificent Vendel helmet which is often shown in engravings without them<sup>2</sup>, but they can be seen in the Stockholm Museum<sup>3</sup>. If it ever possessed them, the Benty Grange helmet has lost these side pieces. Such cheek-protections are, however, represented, together with the nose-protection, on the head of one of the warriors depicted on the Franks Casket. In the Vendel helms, the nose-pieces were connected under the eyes with the rim of the helmet, so as to form a mask<sup>4</sup>, the helmet in *Beowulf* is frequently spoken of as the battle-mask<sup>5</sup>.

Both helmet and boar-crest were sometimes gold-adorned<sup>6</sup> the golden boar was a symbol of the god Freyr some magic protective power is still, in *Beowulf*<sup>7</sup>, felt to adhere to these swine-likenesses, as it was in the days of Tacitus<sup>8</sup>.

In Scandinavia, the Torslunda plates show the helmet with a boar-crest the Vendel helmet has representations of warriors whose crests have an animal's head tailing off to a mere rim or roll: this may be the *walu* or *vala* which keeps watch over the head in *Beowulf*<sup>9</sup>. The helmet was bound fast to the head<sup>9</sup>, exactly how, we do not know.

See Lehmann (H.), *Brunne und Helm in aqs Beowulfstede* (Göttingen Diss., Leipzig, cf. Wulker, *Angla*, VIII, *Anzeiger*, 167-70, Schulz, *Engl. Stud.* ix, 471), Hoops' *Reallexikon*, s. v. *Helm*, Baldwin Brown, III, 194-6, Falk, *Altnord. Waffenhunde*, 155-73, Stjerna, *Hjalmar och svärd*, 1907, as above but the attempt of Stjerna to arrange the helmets he depicts in a

<sup>1</sup> A very good description of these continental "Spangenhelme" is given in the magnificent work of I. W. Grobbels, *Der Reihengraberfund von Gammeringen*, München, 1905. These helms had long been known from a specimen (place of origin uncertain) in the Hermitage at Petrograd, and another example, that of Vézeronce, supposed to have been lost in the battle between Franks and Burgundians in 524. Seven other examples have been discovered in the last quarter of a century, including those of Baldenheim (for which see Henning (R.), *Der helm von Baldenheim und die verwandten helme des frühen mittelalters*, Strassburg, 1907, cf. Kauffmann, *Z. f. d. Ph.* XL, 464-7) and Gammertingen. They are not purely Germanic, and may have been made in Gaul, or among the Ostrogoths in Ravenna, or further east.

<sup>2</sup> Stjerna, *Essays*, p. 11 = *Studier tillagnade Oscar Montelius af Larjungar*, 1903, p. 104. Clark Hall, *Beowulf*, 1911, p. 228.

<sup>3</sup> See also *Graffaltet vid Vendel, beskrifvet af H. Stolpe och T. J. Arne*, Stockholm, 1912, pp. 13, 54, Pl. v, vi.

<sup>4</sup> ll. 396, 2049, 2257, 2605, cf. *grimhelm*, 334.

<sup>5</sup> 2811, 304, 1111 (cf. Falk, 156).

<sup>6</sup> 1453-4 (cf. Falk, 157-9).

<sup>7</sup> *securum etiam inter hostes praestat* Germ. cap. 45.

<sup>8</sup> 1031 (cf. Falk, 158).

<sup>9</sup> 1630, 2723. Cf. *Exodus*, 174, *grimhelm* *gespæon cyning cınberge*, and *Genesis*, 444. (See Falk, 166.)

chronological series is perilous, and depends on a dating of the Benty Grange helmet which is by no means generally accepted

**The Corslet.** This in *Beowulf* is made of rings<sup>1</sup>, twisted and interlaced by hand<sup>2</sup> As stated above, the fragments of the only known Anglo-Saxon byrnie were not of this type, but rather intended to have been sewn "upon a doublet of strong cloth"<sup>3</sup> Byrnie were of various lengths, the longer ones reaching to the middle of the thigh (*byrnan side*, *Beow.* 1291, cf. *loricæ longæ, siðar byrnyr*)

See Falk, 179, Baldwin Brown, III, 194

**The Speaf.** Spear and shield were the essential Germanic weapons in the days of Tacitus, and they are the weapons most commonly found in Old English tombs The spear-shaft has generally decayed, analysis of fragments surviving show that it was frequently of ash<sup>4</sup> The butt-end of the spear was frequently furnished with an iron tip, and the distance of this from the spear-head, and the size of the socket, show the spear-shaft to have been six or seven feet long, and three-quarters of an inch to one inch in diameter

See Falk, 66-90; Baldwin Brown, III, 234-41

**The Shield** Several round shields were preserved on the Gokstad ship, and in the deposits of an earlier period at Thorsbjerg and Nydam These are formed of boards fastened together, often only a quarter of an inch thick, and not strengthened or braced in any way, bearing out the contemptuous description of the painted German shield which Tacitus puts into the mouth of Germanicus<sup>5</sup> It was, however, intended that the shield should be light It was easily pierced, but, by a rapid twist, the foe's sword could be broken or wrenched from his hand Thus we are told how Gunnar gave his shield a twist, as his adversary thrust his sword through it, and so snapped off his sword at the hilt<sup>6</sup> The shield was held by a bar, crossing a hole some four inches wide cut in the middle The hand was protected by a hollow conical boss or umbo, fixed to the wood by its brim, but projecting considerably In England the wood of the shield has always perished, but a large number of bosses have been preserved The boss seems to have been called *ronð*, a word which is also used for the shield as a whole In *Beowulf*, 2673, *Gifts of Men*, 65, the meaning "boss" suits *ronð best*, also in *rand sceal on scyldre, fæst fingra gebeorh* (*Cotton Gnomie Verses*, 37-8) But the original meaning of *rand* must have been the circular rim round the edge, and thus

<sup>1</sup> Cf. ll. 1503, 1548, 2260, 2754

<sup>2</sup> Cf. ll. 322, 551, 1443

<sup>3</sup> Bateman, *Ten Years' Diggings*, 1861, p. 32

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *Beowulf*, 330, 1772, 2042

<sup>5</sup> "ne scuta quidem ferro nervosæ firmata, sed tenuis et fucatas colore tabulas," *Annals*, II, 14, cf. *Germania*, 6, "scuta tantum lectissimis coloribus distinguunt"

<sup>6</sup> *Njáls Saga*, cap. xxx.

meaning it retains in Icelandic (Falk, 131). The linden wood was sometimes bound with bast, whence *scyld* (*seal*) *gebunden*, *leoht linden bord* (*Ezeter Gnostic Verses*, 94-5).

See Falk (126-54); Baldwin Brown, III, 196-204; Pfannkuche (K), *Der Schild bei den Angelsachsen*, Halle Dissertation, 1908

**The Bow** is a weapon of much less importance in *Beowulf* than the spear. Few traces of the bow have survived from Anglo-Saxon England, though many wooden long-bows have been preserved in the moss-finds in a remarkably fine state. They are of yew, some over six feet long, and in at least one instance tipped with horn. The bow entirely of horn was, of course, well known in the East, and in classical antiquity, but I do not think traces of any horn-bow have been discovered in the North. It was a difficult weapon to manage, as the suitors of Penelope found to their cost. Possibly that is why Hæthcyn is represented as killing his brother Herebeald accidentally with a horn-bow: he could not manage the exotic weapon.

See Falk, 91-103, Baldwin Brown, III, 241

### The Hall

It may perhaps be the fact that in the church of Sta Maria de Naranco, in the north of Spain, we have the hall of a Visigothic king driven north by the Mohammedan invasion. But, even if this surmise<sup>1</sup> be correct, the structure of a stone hall of about 750 A.D. gives us little information as to the wooden halls of early Anglo-Saxon times. Heorot is clearly built of timber, held together by iron clamps<sup>2</sup>. These halls were oblong, and a famous passage in Bede<sup>3</sup> makes it clear that, at any rate at the time of the Conversion, the hall had a door at both ends, and the fire burnt in the middle. (The smoke escaped through a hole in the roof, through which probably most of the light came, for windows were few or none.) The *Finnsburg Fragment* also implies two doors. Further indications can be drawn from references to the halls of Norse chiefs. The Scandinavian hall was divided by rows of wooden pillars into a central nave and side aisles. The pillars in the centre were known as the "high-seat pillars." Rows of seats ran down the length of the hall on each side. The central position, facing the high-seat pillars and the fire, was the most honourable. The place of honour for the chief guest was opposite, and it is quite clear that in *Beowulf* also the guest did not sit next his host<sup>4</sup>.

Other points we may note about Heorot, are the tapestry with which its walls are draped<sup>5</sup>, and the paved and variegated floor<sup>6</sup>. Unlike so

<sup>1</sup> It is the guess of A. Haupt, *Die Älteste Kunst der Germanen*, p. 213

<sup>2</sup> II. 773-5, 998

<sup>3</sup> *Hist. Eccl.* II, 13. The life of man is compared to the transit of a sparrow flying from door to door of the hall where the king sits feasting with his thanes and warriors, with a fire in the midst.

<sup>4</sup> II. 617-24, 2011-3

<sup>5</sup> 995

<sup>6</sup> 725

many later halls, Heorot has a floor little, if anything, raised above the ground. horses can be brought in<sup>1</sup>

In later times, in Iceland, the arrangement of the hall was changed, and the house consisted of many rooms, but these were formed, not by partitioning the hall, but by building several such halls side by side. the *stufa* or hall proper, the *skáli* or sleeping hall, etc

See M. Heyne, *Ueber die Lage und Construction der Halle Heorot*, Paderborn, 1864, where the scanty information about Heorot is collected, and supplemented with some information about Anglo-Saxon building. For the Icelandic hall see Valtýr Guðmundsson, *Prættibolign på Island i Sagatiden*, København, 1889. This has been summarized, in a more popular form, in a chapter on *Den islandske Bohg i Fristatstiden*, contributed by Guðmundsson to Rosenberg's *Træk af Livet paa Island i Fristatstiden*, 1894 (pp. 251-74). Here occurs the picture of an Icelandic hall which has been so often reproduced—by Olrik, Holthausen, and in *Beowulf*-translations. But it is a conjectural picture, and we can by no means assume all its details for Heorot. Rhamm's colossal work is only for the initiated, but is useful for consultation on special points (*Ethnographische Beiträge zur Germanisch-slavischen Altertumskunde*, von K. Rhamm, 1905-8. I. *Die Grosshufen der Nordgermanen*, II. *Urzeitliche Bauernhöfe*). For various details see Hoops' *Reallexikon*, s.v. *flett*, Neckel in *P.B.B.* xli, 1916, 163-70 (*under edoras*), Meisinger in *I.F.*, especially xviii, 257 (*under eoderas*), Kaufmann in *Z.f.d.Ph.* xxxix, 282-92.

### *Ships*

In a tumulus near Snape in Suffolk, opened in 1862, there were discovered, with burnt bones and remains thought to be of Anglo-Saxon date, a large number of rivets which, from the positions in which they were found, seemed to give evidence of a boat 48 feet long by over nine feet wide.<sup>2</sup> A boat, similar in dimensions, but better preserved, was unearthed near Bruges in 1899, and the ribs, mast and rudder removed to the Gruuthuse Museum.<sup>3</sup>

Three boats were discovered in the peat moss at Nydam in Schleswig in 1863, by Engelhardt. The most important is the "Nydam boat," clinker-built (i.e. with overlapping planks), of oak, 77 feet [23.5 m.] long, by some 11 [3.4 m.] broad, with rowlocks for fourteen oars down each side. There was no trace of any mast. Planks and framework had been held together, partly by iron bolts, and partly by ropes of bast. The boat had fallen to pieces, and had to be laboriously put together in the museum at Flensborg. Another boat was quite fragmentary, but a third boat, of fir, was found

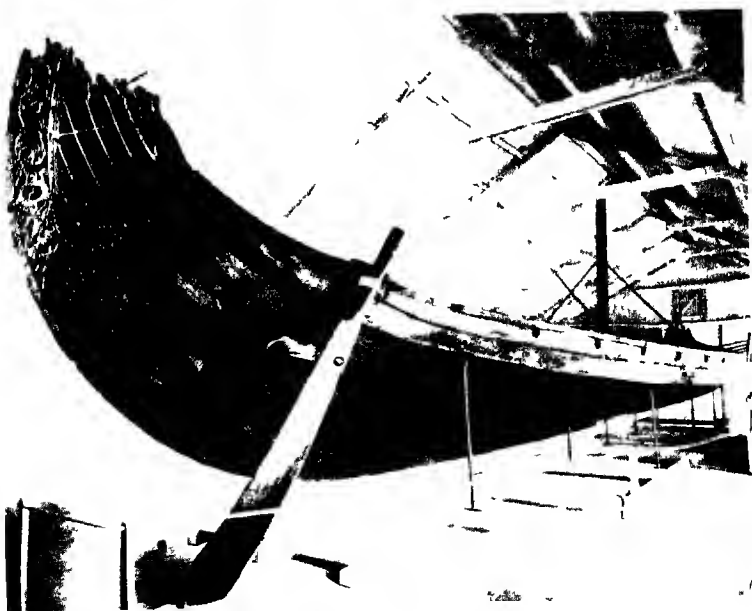
<sup>1</sup> 1035 etc

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, Sec. Ser. II, 177-82.

<sup>3</sup> Jonckheere (É.), *L'origine de la Côte de Flandre et le Bateau de Bruges*, Bruges, 1903.



THE GOKSTAD SHIP



THE OSEBERG SHIP





tolerably complete. Then the war of 1864 ended Engelhardt's labours at Nydam.

The oak-boat was removed to Kiel, where it now is.

The fir-boat was allowed to decay: many of the pieces of the oak-boat had been rotten and had of necessity been restored in facsimile, and it is much less complete than might be supposed from the numerous reproductions, based upon the fine engraving by Magnus Petersen. The rustic with a spade, there depicted as gazing at the boat, is apt to give a wrong impression that it was dug out intact<sup>1</sup>.

Such was, however, actually the case with regard to the ship excavated from the big mound at Gokstad, near Christiania, by Nicolaysen, in 1880. This was fitted both as a rowing and sailing ship, it was 66 feet [20.1 m.] long on the keel, 78 feet [23.8 m.] from fore to aft and nearly 17 feet [5.1 m.] broad, and was clinker-built, out of a much larger number of oaken planks than the Nydam ship. It had rowlocks for sixteen oars down each side, the gunwale was lined with shields, some of them well preserved, which had been originally painted alternately black and yellow. The find owed its extraordinary preservation to the blue clay in which it was embedded. Its discoverer wrote, with pardonable pride, "Certain it is that we shall not disinter any craft which, in respect of model and workmanship, will outrival that of Gokstad<sup>2</sup>."

Yet the prophecy was destined to prove false for on Aug. 8, 1903, a farmer came into the National Museum at Christiania to tell the curator, Prof. Gustafson, that he had discovered traces of a boat on his farm at Oseberg. Gustafson found that the task was too great to be begun so late in the year: the digging out of the ship, and its removal to Christiania, occupied from just before Midsummer to just before Christmas of 1904. The potter's clay in which the ship was buried had preserved it, if possible, better than the Gokstad ship, but the movement of the soft subsoil had squeezed and broken both ship and contents. The ship was taken out of the earth in nearly two thousand fragments. These were carefully numbered and marked: each piece was treated, bent back into its right shape, and the ship was put together again plank by plank, as when it was first built. With the exception of a piece about half a yard long, five or six little bits let in, and one of the beams, the ship as it stands now consists of the original woodwork. Two-thirds of the rivets are the old ones. Till his death in 1915 Gustafson was occupied in treating and preparing for exhibition first the ship, and then its extraordinarily rich contents: a waggon and sledges beautifully carved, beds, chests, kitchen utensils which had been buried with the princess who had owned them. A full account of the find is only now being published<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Engelhardt (H. C. C.), *Nydam Mosefund*, Kjøbenhavn, 1865.

<sup>2</sup> Nicolaysen (N.), *Langskibet fra Gokstad*, Kristiania, 1882.

<sup>3</sup> *Osebergfundet* "Udgitt av den Norske Stat, under redaktion av A. W. Brøgger, H. Falk, H. Schetelig. Bd. I, Kristiania, 1917.

The Oseberg ship is the pleasure boat of a royal lady: clinker-built, of oak, exquisitely carved, intended not for long voyages but for the land-locked waters of the fiord, 70½ feet [21.5 m.] long by some 16½ feet [5 m.] broad. There are holes for fifteen oars down each side, and the ship carried mast and sail.

The upper part of the prow had been destroyed, but sufficient fragments have been found to show that it ended in the head of a snake-like creature, bent round in a coil. This explains the words *hringed-stefna*<sup>1</sup>, *hring-naca*<sup>2</sup>, *wunden-stefna*<sup>3</sup>, used of the ship in *Beowulf*. A similar ringed prow is depicted on an engraved stone from Tjängvide, now in the National Historical Museum at Stockholm. This is supposed to date from about the year 1000<sup>4</sup>.

The Gokstad and Oseberg ships, together with the ship of Tune, a much less complete specimen (unearthed in 1867, and found like the others on the shore of the Christiania fiord) owe their preservation to the clay, and the skill of Scandinavian antiquaries. Yet they are but three out of thousands of ship- or boat-burials. Schetelig enumerates 552 known instances from Norway alone. Often traces of the iron rivets are all that remain.

Ships preserved from the Baltic coast of Germany can be seen at Königsberg, Danzig and Stettin, they are smaller and apparently later, the best, that of Broßen, was destroyed.

The seamanship of *Beowulf* is removed by centuries from that of the (? fourth or fifth century) Nydam boat, which not only has no mast or proper keel but is so built as to be little suited for sailing. In *Beowulf* the sea is a "sail-road," the word "to row" occurs only in the sense of "swim," sailing is assumed as the means by which *Beowulf* travels between the land of the Geatas and that of the Danes. Though he voyages with but fourteen companions, the ship is big enough to carry back four horses. How the sail may have been arranged is shown in many inscribed stones of the eighth to the tenth centuries: notably those of Stenkyrka<sup>5</sup>, Högbo<sup>6</sup>, and Tjängvide<sup>7</sup>.

The Oseberg and Gokstad ships are no doubt later than the composition of *Beowulf*. But it is when looking at the Oseberg ship, especially if we picture the great prow like the neck of a swan ending in a serpent's coil, that we can best understand the words of *Beowulf*:

flota fāmī—heals fugle gelicost,  
wunden-stefna,

well rendered by Earle "The foamy-necked floater, most like to a bird—the coily-stemmed."

<sup>1</sup> *Beowulf*, ll 32, 1131, 1897

<sup>2</sup> 1862

<sup>3</sup> 220

<sup>4</sup> Noreen, *Allschwedische Grammatik*, 1904, p. 499

<sup>5</sup> All these places are in Gotland. The Stenkyrka stone is reproduced in Stjerna's *Essays*, transl. Clark Hall, fig. 24.

<sup>6</sup> The same, fig. 27.

<sup>7</sup> Reproduced in Montelius, *Sveriges Historia*, p. 283.

See Boehmer (G H), *Prehistoric Naval Architecture of the North of Europe, Report of the U.S. National Museum for 1891* (now rather out of date), Guðmundsson (V), *Nordboernes Skibe i Vikinge- og Sagatiden*, Kopenhagen, 1900, †Schnepper, *Die Namen der Schiffe u. Schiffsteile im Altenglischen* (Kiel Diss.), 1908, Falk (H.), *Altnordisches Seewesen* (Wörter u. Sachen, iv, Heidelberg, 1912), Hoops' *Reallexikon*, s v. *Schiff*

#### G. LEIRE BEFORE ROLF KRAKI

That Leire was the royal town, not merely of Rolf Kragi, but of Rolf's predecessors as well, is stated in the *Skjoldunga Saga*, extant in the Latin abstract of Arngrim Jonsson *Scioldus in arce Selandiae Hledro sedes posuit, quae et sequentium plurimorum regum regia fuit* (ed Olnk, Kopenhagen, 1894, p. 23 [105]). Similarly we are told in the *Ynglinga Saga*, concerning Gefion, *Hennar fekk Skjoldr, sonr Óðins, þau bjoggu at Hleiðru* (*Heimskringla*, udgivne ved F. Jónsson, Kopenhagen, i, 15 [cap. v]).

Above all, it is clear from the *Annales Lundenses* that, in the twelfth century, Dan, Ro (Hrothgar) and Haldan (Healfdene) were traditionally connected with Leire, and three of the grave mounds there were associated with these three kings. See the extract given above, pp 204-5, and cf. p 17.

#### H. BEE-WOLF AND BEAR'S SON

The obvious interpretation of the name *Bēowulf* is that suggested by Grimm<sup>1</sup>, that it means "wolf, or foe, of the bee" Grimm's suggestion was repeated independently by Skeat<sup>2</sup>, and further reasons for the interpretation "bee-foe" have been found by Sweet<sup>3</sup> (who had been anticipated by Simrock<sup>4</sup> in some of his points), by Cosijn<sup>5</sup>, Sievers<sup>6</sup>, von Grienberger<sup>7</sup>, Panzer<sup>8</sup> and Bjorkman<sup>9</sup>

From the phonological point of view the etymology is a

<sup>1</sup> *Deutsche Mythologie*, 3te Ausgabe, 1854, pp 342, 639

<sup>2</sup> *Academy*, xi, 1877, p 163

<sup>3</sup> *Engl Stud* ii, 314

<sup>4</sup> *Beowulf*, p 177

<sup>5</sup> *Aantekeningen op den Beowulf*, 1892, p 42

<sup>6</sup> *P B B* xviii, 413

<sup>7</sup> *Z f o G* lvi, 759

<sup>8</sup> *Beowulf*, p 392

<sup>9</sup> *Engl. Stud* lii, 191 Among the many who have accepted the explanation "bee-wolf," without giving additional reasons, may be mentioned R. Müller, *Untersuchungen über die Namen des Liber Vstae*, 1901, p 94

perfect one, but many of those who were convinced that "Beowulf" meant "bee-foe" had no satisfactory explanation of "bee-foe" to offer<sup>1</sup>. Others, like Bugge, whilst admitting that, so far as the form of the words goes, the etymology is satisfactory, rejected "bee-foe" because it seemed to them meaningless<sup>2</sup>.

Yet it is very far from meaningless "Bee-foe" means "bear." The bear has got a name, or nickname, in many northern languages from his habit of raiding the hives for honey. The Finnish name for bear is said to be "honey-hand" he is certainly called "sweet-foot," *sotfoot*, in Sweden, and the Old Slavonic name, "honey-eater," has come to be accepted in Russian, not merely as a nickname, but as the regular term for "bear."

And "bear" is an excellent name for a hero of story. The O.E. *beorn*, "warrior, hero, prince" seems originally to have meant simply "bear." The bear, says Grimm, "is regarded, in the belief of the Old Norse, Slavonic, Finnish and Lapp peoples, as an exalted and holy being, endowed with human understanding and the strength of twelve men. He is called 'forest-king,' 'gold-foot,' 'sweet-foot,' 'honey-hand,' 'honey-paw,' 'honey-eater,' but also 'the great,' 'the old,' 'the old grand-sire'<sup>3</sup>." "Bee-hunter" is then a satisfactory explanation of *Bēowulf* while the alternative explanations are none of them satisfactory.

Many scholars have been led off the track by the assumption that Beow and Beowulf are to be identified, and that we must therefore assume that the first element in Beowulf's name is *Bēow*—that we must divide not *Bēo-wulf* but *Bēow-ulf*, "a warrior after the manner of Beow"<sup>4</sup>. But there is no ground

<sup>1</sup> Both Grimm and Skeat suggested the woodpecker, which feeds upon bees and their larvae. Grimm appealing to classical mythology, Skeat instancing the bird's courage. But nothing seems forthcoming from Teutonic mythology to favour this interpretation. Cosijn, following Symons, *ZfdPh* xxiv, 17, thought bees might have been an omen of victory. But there is no satisfactory evidence for this. The term *sigewif* applied to the swarming bees in the *Charms* (Cockayne's *Leechdoms*, i, 384) is insufficient.

<sup>2</sup> *Tidskr f Philol og Pædag* viii, 289.

<sup>3</sup> *Deutsches Wörterbuch*, 1854, i, 1122.

<sup>4</sup> "Das compositum Beowulf, wie Gôzolf, Irmnolf, Regnolf, und andre gebildet, zeigt nur einen helden und kriegler im geist und sinn oder von der art des Beowa an ihm entspricht altn *Bjólfr*." (Müllenhoff, in *ZfdA* xii,

for any such assumption. It is true that in ll 18, 53, "Beowulf" is written where we should have expected "Beowa." But, even if two words of similar sound have been confused, this fact affords no reason for supposing that they must necessarily have been in the first instance connected etymologically. And against the "warrior of Beow" interpretation is the fact that the name is recorded in the early Northumbrian *Liber Vitae* under the form "Biuulf<sup>1</sup>." This name, which is that of an early monk of Durham, is presumably the same as that of the hero of our poem, though it does not, of course, follow that the bearer of it was named with any special reference to the slayer of Grendel. Now *Biuulf* is correct Northumbrian for "bee-wolf," but the first element in the word cannot stand for *Bēow*<sup>2</sup>, unless the

284) But certainly this interpretation is impossible for O N *Biólfr* "warrior of Beowa" would be *\*Byggulfr*, which we nowhere find. See Björkman in *Engl. Stud.* LII, 191. Mullenhoff at this date, whilst not connecting *Bēowulf* directly with *bēo*, "bee," did so connect *Bēowa*, whom he interpreted as a bee-god or bee father. But there is no evidence for this, and the *w* of *Bēowa* tells emphatically against it. Mullenhoff subsequently abandoned this explanation.

<sup>1</sup> It is actually written *Biu"ulf*.

<sup>2</sup> *Biu* in *Biuulf* cannot stand for *Bēo* [older *Beu*] because in Old Northumbrian *u* and *eo* are rigidly differentiated, as an examination of all the other names in the *Liber Vitae* shows. As Sievers points out, if *Biuulf* is to be derived from *\*Reuw* (*wulf*), then it would afford an isolated and inexplicable case of *u* for *eo* [*eu*], unique in the *Liber Vitae*, as in the whole mass of the oldest English texts "Soll ein zusammenhang mit st *beuwa*- stattfinden, so muss man auch diesen stamm für einen urspr. *s*-stamm erklären, und unser *biu*- auf die stammform *biuuw(z)*- nicht auf *beuwa(z)*- zurückführen" (Sievers, *P B B* xviii, 413). The word however is a neut. *wa*-stem, whether in O E (*bēow*), Old Saxon (*bēo*) or Icelandic (*bygg*) see Sievers, *Ag. Grammatik*, 3te Aufl. § 250, Gallee, *Altächsische Grammatik*, 2te Aufl. § 305, Noreen, *Altisländische Grammatik*, 3te Aufl. § 356. The word is extant in Old English only in the Glossaries, in the gen. sing., "handful because," etc., and in Old Saxon only in the gen. plu. *beuuu*. It is thought to have been originally a *wu*-stem, which subsequently, as e.g. in O E, passed into a *wa*-stem. (See Noreen, *A f n F* I, 166, arguing from the form *begg* in the Dalecarlian dialect.) The presumed Primitive Norse form is *begguw*, whence the various Scandinavian forms, Icel. *bygg*, Old Swedish and Old Danish *bug(g)*. See Hellquist in *A f n F* vii, 31, von Unwerth, *A f n F* xxxiii, 331, Binz, *P B B* xx, 153, von Helten, *P B B* xxx, 245, Kock, *Umlaut u. Brechung im Aschw.* p. 314, in *Lunds Universitets årsskrift*, Bd. xii. The proper name *Byggvir* is a *ja*-stem, but *Bēow* cannot have been so formed, as a *ja*-stem would give the form *Bēowe*. Cosijn (*Aanteekeningen*, 42) was accordingly justified in pointing to the form *Biuulf* as refuting Kögel's attempt to connect *Bēowulf* with *Bēow* through a form *\*Bauwulf* (*A f d A.* xviii, 56). Kögel replied with a laboured defence (*Z f d A.* xxxvii, 268) he starts by assuming that *Bēow* and *Bēowulf* are etymologically connected, which is the very point which has to be proved. He has to admit that, if his etymology be correct, the *Biuulf* of the *Liber Vitae* is not the same form as *Bēowulf*, which is the very point Cosijn urged as telling against his etymology, and even so his etymological explanations depend upon stages which cannot be accepted in the present state of our knowledge (see especially Sievers in *P B B* xiii, 413, Björkman in *Engl. Stud.* LII, 150).

affinities and forms of that word are quite different from all that the evidence has hitherto led us to believe. So much at least seems certain. Besides, we have seen that Byggvir is taunted by Loki precisely with the fact that he is no warrior. If we can estimate the characteristics of the O E. Beow from those of the Scandinavian Byggvir, the name "Warrior after the manner of Beow" would be meaningless, if not absurd. Bugge<sup>1</sup>, relying upon the parallel O.N. form *Bjólfr*<sup>2</sup>, which is recorded as the name of one of the early settlers in Iceland<sup>3</sup>, tried to interpret the word as *Bæjólfr* "the wolf of the farmstead," quoting as parallels *Heimulf*, *Gardulf*. But *Bjólfr* itself is best interpreted as "Bee-wolf<sup>4</sup>." And admittedly Bugge's explanation does not suit the O E. *Bēowulf*, and necessitates the assumption that the word in English is a mere meaningless borrowing from the Scandinavian for *Bēowulf* assuredly does not mean "wolf of the farmstead<sup>5</sup>."

Neither can we take very seriously the explanation of Sarrazin and Ferguson<sup>6</sup> that *Bēowulf* is an abbreviation of *Beadu-wulf*, "wolf of war." Our business is to interpret the name *Bēowulf*, or, if we cannot, to admit that we cannot, not to substitute some quite distinct name for it, and interpret that. Such theories merely show to what straits we may be reduced, if we reject the obvious etymology of the word.

And there are two further considerations, which confirm, almost to a certainty, this obvious interpretation of "Beowulf" as "Bee-wolf" or "Bear." The first is that it agrees excellently with Beowulf's bear-like habit of hugging his adversaries to death—a feature which surely belongs to the original kernel of our story, since it is incompatible with the chivalrous, weapon-

<sup>1</sup> *Tidskr. f. Philol. og Pædag.* VIII, 289

<sup>2</sup> First pointed out by Grundtvig in Barfod's *Brage og Idun*, IV, 1841, p. 500, footnote

<sup>3</sup> "Lodmundr hinn gamli het madr enn annarr. Bjólfr fostbroðir hans þeir foru til Íslands af Voss af þvílvesni" (Voss in Norway). See *Landnamabok*, København, 1900, p. 92

<sup>4</sup> Noreen, *Altislandische Grammatik*, 3te Aufl. p. 97. See also Noreen in *Festschrift zu H. F. Feilberg*, 1911, p. 283. Noreen seems to have no doubt as to the explanation of *Bjólfr* as *Bj-ólfr*, "Bee wolf."

<sup>5</sup> Bugge, has, however, been followed by Gering, *Beowulf*, 1906, p. 100

<sup>6</sup> Ferguson in the *Athenæum*, June 1892, p. 763. "Beadowulf by a common form of elision (!) would become Beowulf." Sarrazin admits "Freilich ist das eine ungewöhnliche verkürzung" (*Engl. Stud.* XLII, 19). See also Sarrazin in *Anglia*, V, 200, *Beowulf-Studien*, 33, 77, *Engl. Stud.* XVI, 79.

loving trappings in which that story has been dressed<sup>1</sup> The second is that, as I have tried to show, the evidence is strongly in favour of Bjarki and Beowulf being originally the same figure<sup>2</sup>; and Bjarki is certainly a bear-hero<sup>3</sup>. His name signifies as much, and in the *Saga of Rolf Kraki* we are told at length how the father of Bjarki was a prince who had been turned by enchantment into a bear<sup>4</sup>.

If, then, Beowulf is a bear-hero<sup>5</sup>, the next step is to enquire whether there is any real likeness between his adventures at Heorot and under the mere, and the adventures of the hero of the widely-spread "Bear's Son" folk-tale This investigation has, as we have seen above<sup>6</sup>, been carried out by Panzer in his monumental work, which marks an epoch in the study of *Beowulf*

Panzer's arguments in favour of such connection would, I think, have been strengthened if he had either quoted textually a number of the more important and less generally accessible folk-tales, or, since this would have proved cumbersome, if he had at least given abstracts of them The method which Panzer follows, is to enumerate over two hundred tales, and from them to construct a story which is a compound of them all This is obviously a method which is liable to abuse, though I do not say that Panzer has abused it But we must not let a story so constructed usurp in our minds the place of the actual recorded folk-tales. Folk-tales, as Andrew Lang wrote long ago, "consist of but few incidents, grouped together in a kaleidoscopic variety of arrangements" A collection of over two hundred cognate tales offers a wide field for the selection therefrom of a composite story Further, some geographical discrimination is necessary. these tales are scattered over Europe and Asia, and it is important to keep constantly in mind whether a given type of tale belongs, for example, to Greece or to Scandinavia.

<sup>1</sup> This incompatibility comes out very strongly in ll 2499-2506, where Beowulf praises his sword particularly for the services it has *not* been able to render him

<sup>2</sup> See above, pp 60-1

<sup>3</sup> Olrik, *Hættedagting*, I, 140 F. Jónsson, *Hrólfs Saga Kraka*, 1904, *Inledning*, xx

<sup>4</sup> *Hrólfs Saga Kraka*, cap 17-20

<sup>5</sup> The trait is wanting in the *Grettis saga* Grettir son of Asmund was too historical a character for such features to be attributed to him

<sup>6</sup> See pp 62-7



A typical example of the Bear's son tale is *Der Starke Hans* in Grimm<sup>1</sup>. Hans is brought up in a robber's den, but quite apart from any of the theories we are now considering, it has long been recognized that this is a mere toning down of the original incredible story, which makes a bear's den the nursery of the strong youth<sup>2</sup>. Hans overcomes in an empty castle the foe (a mannikin of magic powers) who has already worsted his comrades Fir-twister and Stone-splitter. He pursues this foe to his hole, is let down by his companions in a basket by a rope, slays the foe with his club and rescues a princess. He sends up the princess in the basket, but when his own turn comes to be pulled up his associates intentionally drop the basket when halfway up. But Hans, suspecting treason, has only sent up his club. He escapes by magic help, takes vengeance on the traitors, and weds the princess.

In another story in Grimm<sup>3</sup>, the antagonist whom the hero overcomes, but does not in this case slay, is called the Earth-man, *Dat Erdmanneken*. This type begins with the disappearance of the princesses, who are to the orthodox number of three, otherwise it does not differ materially from the abstract given above. Grimm records four distinct versions, all from Western Germany.

The versions of this widespread story which are most easily accessible to English readers are likely to prejudice such readers against Panzer's view. The two versions in Campbell's *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*<sup>4</sup>, or the version in Kennedy's *Legendary Fictions of the Irish Celts*<sup>5</sup> are not of a kind to remind any unprejudiced reader strongly of *Beowulf*, or of the *Grettir*-story either. Indeed, I believe that from countries so remote as North Italy or Russia parallels can be found which are closer than any so far quoted from the Celtic portions of the British Isles. Possibly more Celtic parallels may be forthcoming in the future: some striking ones at any rate are promised<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> No 166. Translated as "Strong Hans" (*Grimm's Household Tales*, trans. by M. Hunt, with introduction by A. Lang, 1884).

<sup>2</sup> As, for example, by Cosquin, *Contes populaires de Lorraine*, I, 7. A comparison of the different versions in which the "strange theme" is toned down, in a greater or less degree, seems to make this certain. <sup>3</sup> No 91.

<sup>4</sup> Edinburgh, 1860, vol. I, No. xvi, "The king of Lochlin's three daughters" vol. III, No. LVIII, "The rider of Grianag."

<sup>5</sup> London, 1866 p. 43, "The Three Crowns."

<sup>6</sup> Notably by von Sydow.

So, too, the story of the "Great Bird Dan" (*Fugl Dam*<sup>1</sup>), which is accessible to English readers in Dasent's translation<sup>2</sup>, is one in which the typical features have been overlaid by a mass of detail

A much more normal specimen of the "Bear's son" story is found, for example, in a folk-tale from Lombardy—the story of *Giovanni dell' Orso*<sup>3</sup>. Giovanni is brought up in a bear's den, whither his mother has been carried off. At five, he has the growth of a man and the strength of a giant. At sixteen, he is able to remove the stone from the door of the den and escape, with his mother. Going on his adventures with two comrades, he comes to an empty palace. The comrades are defeated. It becomes the turn of Giovanni to be alone. An old man comes in and "grows, grows till his head touched the roof<sup>4</sup>." Giovanni mortally wounds the giant, who however escapes. They all go in search of him, and find a hole in the ground. His comrades let Giovanni down by a rope. He finds a great hall, full of rich clothes and provision of every kind. In a second hall he finds three girls, each one more beautiful than the other. In a third hall he finds the giant himself, drawing up his will<sup>5</sup>. Giovanni kills the giant, rescues the damsels, and, in spite of his comrades deserting the rope, he escapes, pardons them, himself weds the youngest princess and marries his comrades to the elder ones.

I cannot find in this version any mention of the hero smiting the giant below with a magic sword which he finds there, as suggested by Panzer<sup>6</sup>. But even without this, the first part of the story has resemblances to *Beowulf*, and still more to the *Grettir*-story.

There are many Slavonic variants. The South Russian story of the Norka<sup>7</sup> begins with the attack of the Norka upon the King's park. The King offers half his kingdom to anyone who will destroy the beast. The youngest prince of three watches,

<sup>1</sup> Asbjørnsen og Moe, *Norske Folkeeventyr*, Christiania, 1852, No. 3.

<sup>2</sup> *Popular Tales from the Norse* (third edit., Edinburgh, 1888, p. 382).

<sup>3</sup> Visentini, *Fiabe Mantovane*, 1879, No. 32, 157–161.

<sup>4</sup> "fino a che col capo tocca le travi." Cf. Glam in the *Grettir Saga*.

<sup>5</sup> "e qui vede il gigante seduto, che dettava il suo testamento."

<sup>6</sup> p. 153. This is Panzer's version.

<sup>7</sup> "A fabulous creature, but zoologically the name Norka (from *nora*, a hole) belongs to the otter," Ralston, *Russian Folk Tales*, p. 73.

after the failure of his two elder brothers, chases and wounds the monster, who in the end pulls up a stone and disappears into the earth. The prince is let down by his brothers, and, with the help of a sword specially given him in the underworld, and a draught of the water of strength, he slays the foe, and wins the princesses. In order to have these for themselves, the elder brothers drop what they suppose to be their youngest brother, as they are drawing him up. but it is only a stone he has cautiously tied to the rope in place of himself. The prince's miraculous return in disguise, his feats, recognition by the youngest princess, the exposure of the traitors, and marriage of the hero, all follow in due course<sup>1</sup>.

A closer Russian parallel is that of *Ivashko Medvedko*<sup>2</sup>, "John Honey-eater" or "Bear." John grows up, not by years, but by hours: nearly every hour he gains an inch in height. At fifteen, there are complaints of his rough play with other village boys, and John Bear has to go out into the world, after his grandfather has provided him with a weapon, an iron staff of immense weight. He meets a champion who is drinking up a river: "Good morning, John Bear, whither art going?" "I know not whither, I just go, not knowing where to go." "If so, take me with you." The same happens with a second champion whose hobby is to carry mountains on his shoulder, and with a third, who plucks up oaks or pushes them into the ground. They come to a revolving house in a dark forest, which at John's word stands with its back door to the forest and its front door to them. all its doors and windows open of their own accord. Though the yard is full of poultry, the house is empty. Whilst the three companions go hunting, the river-swallower stays in the house to cook dinner: this done, he washes his head, and sits at the window to comb his locks. Suddenly the earth shakes, then stands still: a stone is lifted, and from under it appears Baba Yaga driving in her mortar with a pestle. behind her comes barking a little dog. A short dialogue ensues, and the champion, at her request, gives her food, but the second helping she throws to her dog, and thereupon beats the champion with

<sup>1</sup> Afanasief (A. N.), *Narodnaya Russkaya Skazki*, Moscow, 1860-63, I, 6. See Ralston, p. 73.

<sup>2</sup> Afanasief, VIII, No. 6.

her pestle till he becomes unconscious; then she cuts a strip of skin from his back, and after eating all the food, vanishes. The victim recovers his senses, ties up his head with a handkerchief, and, when his companions return, apologizes for the ill-success of his cooking. "He had been nearly suffocated by the fumes of the charcoal, and had had his work cut out to get the room clear." Exactly the same happens to the other champions. On the fourth day it is the turn of John Bear, and here again the same formulas are repeated. John does the cooking, washes his head, sits down at the window and begins to comb his curly locks. Baba Yaga appears with the usual phenomena, and the usual dialogue follows, till she begins to belabour the hero with her pestle. But he wrests it from her, beats her almost to death, cuts three strips from her skin, and imprisons her in a closet. When his companions return, they are astonished to find dinner ready. After dinner they have a bath, and the companions try not to show their mutilated backs, but at last have to confess. "Now I see why you all suffered from suffocation," says John Bear. He goes to the closet, takes the three strips cut from his friends, and reinserts them: they heal at once. Then he ties up Baba Yaga by a cord fastened to one foot, and they all shoot at the cord in turn. John Bear hits it, and cuts the string in two, Baba Yaga falls to the earth, but rises, runs to the stone from under which she had appeared, lifts it, and vanishes. Each of the companions tries in turn to lift the stone, but only John can accomplish it, and only he is willing to go down. His comrades let him down by a rope, which however is too short, and John has to eke it out by the three strips previously cut from the back of Baba Yaga. At the bottom he sees a path, follows it, and reaches a palace where are three beautiful maidens, who welcome him, but warn him against their mother, who is Baba Yaga herself. "She is asleep now, but she keeps at her head a sword. Do not touch it, but take two golden apples lying on a silver tray, wake her gently, and offer them to her. As soon as she begins to eat, seize the sword, and cut her head off at one blow." John Bear carries out these instructions, and sends up the maidens, two to be wives to his companions, and the youngest to be his own wife. This leaves the third companion wifeless.

and, in indignation, he cuts the rope when the turn comes to pull John up. The hero falls and is badly hurt. [John has forgotten, in this version, to put his iron club into the basket instead of himself—indeed he has up to now made no use of his staff.] In time the hero sees an underground passage, and makes his way out into the white world. Here he finds the youngest maiden, who is tending cattle, after refusing to marry the false companion. John Bear follows her home, slays his former comrades with his staff, and throws their bodies on the field for the wild beasts to devour. He then takes his sweetheart home to his people, and weds her.

The abstract given above is from a translation made by one of my students, Miss M. Steine, who tells me that she had heard the tale in this form many times from her old nurse "when we were being sent to sleep, or sitting round her in the evening." I have given it at this length because I do not know of any accessible translation into any Western language.

Panzer enumerates two hundred and two variants of the story, and there are others<sup>1</sup>. But there is reason in the criticism that what is important for us is the form the folk-tale may have taken in those countries where we must look for the original home of the *Beowulf*-story<sup>2</sup>. The Mantuan folk-tale may have been carried down to North Italy from Scandinavia by the Longobards, who can say? But Panzer's theory must stand or fall by the parallels which can be drawn between the *Beowulf-Grettur*-story on the one hand, and the folk-tales as they have been collected in the countries where this story is native, the lands, that is to say, adjoining the North Sea.

Now it is precisely here that we do find the most remarkable resemblances, in Iceland, the Faroes, Norway, Denmark, Jutland, Schleswig, and the Low German lands as far as the Scheldt.

An Icelandic version exists in an unprinted ms at Reykjavik<sup>3</sup> which can be consulted in a German translation<sup>4</sup>. In this

<sup>1</sup> For example, "Shepherd Paul," in *The Folk-Tales of the Magyars*, by W. H. Jones and L. L. Kropf, *Folk Lore Society*, 1889, p. 244. The latest collection contains its version, 'The Story of Taling, the Half boy' in *Persian Tales, written down for the first time and translated by D. L. R. and E. O. Lorimer*, London, 1919.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. von Sydow in *Afd 4*, xxxv, 126.

<sup>3</sup> Íón Arnason's mss, No. 536, 4°.

<sup>4</sup> Rittershaus (A), *Die Neusslandischen Volksmärchen*, Halle, 1902, No. 25.

version a bear, who is really an enchanted prince, carries off a princess. He resumes his human form and weds the princess, but must still at times take the bear's form. His child, the Bear-boy (*Bjarndreingur*), is to be kept in the house during the long periods when the enchanted husband is away. But at twelve years old the Bear-boy is too strong and unmanageable, bursts out, and slays a bear who turns out to be his father. His mother's heart is broken, but Bear-boy goes on his adventures, and associates with himself three companions, one of whom is *Stein*. They build a house in the wood, which is attacked by a giant, and, as usual, the companions are unable to withstand the attacks. Bear-boy does so, ties the giant's hands behind his back, and fastens him by his beard. But the giant tears himself free. As in *Beowulf*, Bear-boy and his companions follow the track by the drops of blood, and come to a hole. *Stein* is let some way down, the other companions further, but only Bear-boy dares to go to the bottom. There he finds a weeping princess, and learns that she, and her two sisters, have been carried off by three giants, one of whom is his former assailant. He slays all three, and sends their heads up, together with the maidens and other treasures. But his companions desert the rope, and he has to climb up unaided. In the end he weds the youngest princess.

The story from the Faroe Islands runs thus

Three brothers lived together and took turns, two to go out fishing, and one to be at home. For two days, on each of which one of the two elder brothers was at home, came a giant (*Skeggjatussi*) and ate and drank all the food. Then comes the turn of the despised youngest brother, who is called in one version *Øskudólgur*—"the one who sits and rakes in the ashes"—a kind of male Cinderella. This brother routs the giant, either by catching his long beard in a cleft tree-trunk, or by branding him in the nose with a hot iron. In either case the mutilated giant escapes down a hole: in one version, after the other brothers come home, they follow him to this hole by the track of his blood. The two elder brothers leave the task of plunging down to the youngest one, who finds below a girl (in the second version, two kidnapped princesses). He finds also a magic sword hanging

on the wall, which he is only able to lift when he has drunk a magic potion. He then slays the giant, rescues the maiden or maidens, is betrayed in the usual way by his brothers: in the one version they deliberately refuse to draw him up in the other they cut the rope as they are doing so but he is discreetly sending up only a big stone. The hero is helped out, however, by a giant, "Skræddi Kjálki" or "Snerkti rísi," and in the end marries the princess<sup>1</sup>.

In the Norwegian folk-tale the three adventurers are called respectively the Captain, the Lieutenant and the Soldier. They search for the three princesses, and watch in a castle, where the Captain and Lieutenant are in turn worsted by a strange visitor—who in this version is not identical with the troll below ground who guards the princesses<sup>2</sup>. When the turn of the Soldier comes, he seizes the intruder (the man, as he is called)

"Ah no, Ah no, spare my life," said the man, "and you shall know all. East of the castle is a great sandheap, and down in it a winch, with which you can lower yourself. But if you are afraid, and do not dare to go right down, you only need to pull the bell rope which you will find there, and up you will come again. But if you dare venture so far as to come to the bottom, there stands a flask on a shelf over the door you must drink what is in it so will you become so strong that you can strike the head off the troll of the mountain. And by the door there hangs a Troll-sword, which also you must take, for no other steel will bite on his body."

When he had learnt this, he let the man go. When the Captain and the Lieutenant came home, they were not a little surprised to find the Soldier alive. "How have you escaped a drubbing," said they, "has not the man been

<sup>1</sup> *Færøiske Folkesagn og Eventyr*, ed by Jakob Jakobsen, 1898-1901, pp 241-4 (*Samfund til Udgivelse af gammel Nordisk Litteratur*)

<sup>2</sup> This folk tale is given in a small book, to be found in the Christiania University Library, and no doubt elsewhere in Norway. *Nor, en Billedbog for den norske Ungdom* (Tredie Oplag, Christiania, 1865). *Norske Folke Eventyr og Sagn*, fortalte af P. Chr. Asbjørnsen. A copy of the story, slightly altered, occurs in the *Udvalgte Eventyr og Sagn for Børn*, of Krütsen, Bentsen and Johnsson, Christiania, 1877, p 58 etc.

here?" "Oh yes, he is quite a good fellow, he is," said the Soldier, "I have learnt from him where the princesses are," and he told them all. They were glad when they heard that, and when they had eaten, they went all three to the sandheap.

As usual, the Captain and the Lieutenant do not dare to go to the bottom: the hero accomplishes the adventure, is (as usual) betrayed by his comrades, but is saved because he has put a stone in the basket instead of himself, and in the end is rescued by the interposition of "Kløverhans".

What is the explanation of the "sandheap" (*sandhaug*) I do not know. But one cannot forget that Grettir's adventure in the house, followed by his adventure with the troll under the earth, is localized at Sandhaugar. This may be a mere accident, but it is worth noting that in following up the track indicated by Panzer we come across startling coincidences of this kind. As stated above, it can hardly be due to any influence of the *Grettis Saga* upon the folk-tale<sup>1</sup>. The likeness between the two is too remote to have suggested a transference of such details from the one story to the other.

We find the story in its normal form in Jutland<sup>2</sup>. The hero, a foundling, is named Bjørnøre (Bear-ears). There is no explanation offered of this name, but we know that in other versions of the story, where the hero is half bear and half man, his bear nature is shown by his bear's ears. "Bear-ears" comes with his companions to an empty house, worsts the foe (the old man, *den gamle*) who has put his companions to shame, and fixes him by his beard in a cloven tree. The foe escapes nevertheless, they follow him to his hole: the companions are afraid, but "Bear-ears" is let down, finds the enemy on his bed, and slays him. The rest of the story follows the usual pattern. "Bear-ears" rescues and sends up the princesses, his comrades detach the rope, which however is hauling up only the hero's iron club. He escapes miraculously from his confinement below, and returns to marry the youngest princess. In another Danish version, from the South of Zealand<sup>3</sup>, the hero, "Strong Hans" (nothing is said

<sup>1</sup> pp 66-7

<sup>2</sup> Berntsen (K.), *Folke-Aeventyr*, 1873, No 12, pp 109-115

<sup>3</sup> Grundtvig (Sv.), *Gamle Danske Minder*, 1854, No 34, p. 33 from Næstved.



about his bear-origin), comes with his companions to a magnificent but empty castle. The old witch worsts his comrades and imprisons them under the trap-door: but Hans beats her, and rescues them, though the witch herself escapes. Hans is let down, rescues the princesses, is betrayed by his comrades (who, thinking to drop him in drawing him up, only drop his iron club), and finally weds the third princess.

A little further South we have three versions of the same tale recorded for Schleswig-Holstein<sup>1</sup>. The hero wins his victory below by means of "a great iron sword" (*en grotes ysernes Schwaert*) which he can only wield after drinking of the magic potion.

From Hanover comes the story of Peter Bar<sup>2</sup>, which shows all the familiar features. From the same district came some of Grimm's variants. Others were from the Rhine provinces: but the fullest version of all comes from the Scheldt, just over the Flemish border. The hero, Jean l'Ourson, is recovered as a child from a bear's den, is despised in his youth<sup>3</sup>, but gives early proof of his strength. He defends an empty castle *un superbe château*, when his companion has failed, strikes off an arm<sup>4</sup> of his assailant *Petit-Père-Bidoux*, chases him to his hole, *un puits vaste et profond*. He is let down by his companion, but finding the rope too short, plunges, and arrives battered at the bottom. There he perceives *une lumière qui brillait au bout d'une longue galerie*<sup>5</sup>. At the end of the gallery he sees his former assailant, attended by *une vieille femme à cheveux blancs, qui semblait âgée de plus de cent ans*, who is salving his wounded arm. The hero quenches the light (which is a magic one) smites his foe on the head and kills him, and then rekindles the lamp<sup>6</sup>. His companion above seeks to rob him of the two princesses he has won, by detaching the rope. Nevertheless, he escapes, weds the good princess, and punishes his faithless companion by making him wed the bad one.

The white-haired old woman is not spoken of as the mother

<sup>1</sup> *Hans mit de ysern Stang*, Mullenhoff, *Sagen, Märchen u. Lieder* 1845 No. xvi, p. 437.

<sup>2</sup> Colshorn (C and Th), *Märchen u. Sagen*, Hannover, 1854, No. v, pp. 18-30.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Beowulf*, ll. 2183-8.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *Beowulf*, ll. 815 etc.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. *Beowulf*, ll. 1516-17, cf. *Gretis Saga*, LXVI.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. *Gretis Saga*, LXVI, *hann kveikti ljós*, cf. *Beowulf* 1570.

of the foe she is nursing, and it may be doubted whether she is in any way parallel to Grendel's mother. The hero does not fight her: indeed it is she who, in the end, enables him to escape. Still the parallels between Jean l'Ourson and Beowulf are striking enough. Nine distinct features recur, in the same order, in the *Beowulf*-story and in this folk-tale. It needs a more robust faith than I possess to attribute this solely to chance.

Unfortunately, this French-Flemish tale is found in a somewhat sophisticated collection. Its recorder, as Sainte-Beuve points out in his letter introductory to the series<sup>1</sup>, uses literary touches which diminish the value of his folk-tales to the student of origins. Any contamination from the *Beowulf*-story or the *Grettur*-story is surely improbable enough in this case: nevertheless, one would have liked the tale taken down verbatim from the lips of some simple-minded narrator as it used to be told at Condé on the Scheldt.

But if we take together the different versions enumerated above, the result is, I think, convincing. Here are eight versions of one folk-tale taken as representatives from a much larger number current in the countries in touch with the North Sea: from Iceland, the Faroes, Norway, Jutland, Zealand, Schleswig, Hanover, and the Scheldt. The champion is a bear-hero (as Beowulf almost certainly is, and as Bjarki quite certainly is), he is called, in Iceland, *Bjarndreingur*, in Jutland, *Bjórndre*, in Hanover, *Peter Bar*, on the Scheldt *Jean l'Ourson*. Like Beowulf, he is despised in his youth (Faroe, Scheldt). In all versions he resists his adversary in an empty house or castle, after his comrades have failed. In most versions of the folk-tale this is the third attack, as it is in the case of Grettir at Sandhaugar and of Bjarki: in *Beowulf*, on the contrary, we gather that Heorot has been raided many times. The adversary, though vanquished, escapes; in one version after the loss of an arm (Scheldt) they follow his track to the hole into which he has vanished, sometimes, as in *Beowulf*, marking traces of his blood (Iceland, Faroe, Schleswig). The hero always ventures down alone, and gets into

<sup>1</sup> *Contes du roi Cadmbrinus*, par C. Deuhn, Paris, 1874 (I. *L'entrépide Gayant*). The story is associated with Gayant, the traditional hero of Douai.

an underworld of magic, which has left traces of its mysteriousness in *Beowulf*. In one tale (Scheldt) the hero sees a magic lamp burning below, just as he sees the fire in *Beowulf* or the *Grettis Saga*. He overcomes either his original foe, or new ones, often by the use of a magic sword (Faroe, Norway, Schleswig); this sword hangs by the door (Norway) or on the wall (Faroe) as in *Beowulf*. After slaying his foe, the hero rekindles the magic lamp, in the Scheldt fairy tale, just as he kindles a light in the *Grettis Saga*, and as the light flashes up in *Beowulf* after the hero has smitten Grendel's mother. The hero is in each case deserted by his companions—a feature which, while it is marked in the *Grettis Saga*, can obviously be allowed to survive in *Beowulf* only in a much softened form. The chosen retainers whom Beowulf has taken with him on his journey could not be represented as unfaithful, because the poet is reserving the episode of the faithless retainers for the death of Beowulf. To have twice represented the escort as cowardly would have made the poem a satire upon the *comitatus*, and would have assured it a hostile reception in every hall from Canterbury to Edinburgh. But there is no doubt as to the faithlessness of the comrade Stein in the *Grettis Saga*. And in Zealand, one of the faithless companions is called *Stenhuggeren* (the Stone-hewer), in Schleswig *Steenklöwer*, in Hanover *Steinspieler*, whilst in Iceland he has the same name, *Stein*, which he has in the *Grettis Saga*.

The fact that the departure home of the Danes in *Beowulf* is due to the same cause as that which accounts for the betrayal of his trust by Stein, shows that in the original *Beowulf*-story also this feature must have occurred, however much it may have become worn down in the existing epic.

I think enough has been said to show that there is a real likeness between a large number of recorded folk-tales and the *Beowulf-Grettis* story. The parallel is not merely with an artificial, theoretical composite put together by Panzer. But it becomes equally clear that *Beowulf* cannot be spoken of as a version of these folk-tales. At most it is a version of a portion of them. The omission of the princesses in *Beowulf* and the *Grettis Saga* is fundamental. With the princesses much else falls away. There is no longer any motive for the betrayal of trust

by the watchers. The disguise of the hero and his vengeance are now no longer necessary to the tale.

It might be argued that there was something about the three princesses which made them unsatisfactory as subjects of story. It has been thought that in the oldest version the hero married all three an awkward episode where a *scop* had to compose a poem for an audience certainly monogamous and most probably Christian. The rather tragic and sombre atmosphere of the stories of Beowulf and Grettir fits in better with a version from which the princesses, and the living happily ever afterwards, have been dropped. On the other hand, it might be argued that the folk-tale is composite, and that the source from which the *Beowulf-Grettir*-story drew was a simpler tale to which the princesses had not yet been added.

And there are additions as well as subtractions. Alike in *Beowulf* and in the *Grettis Saga*, the fight in the house and the fight below are associated with struggles with monsters of different sex. The association of "The Devil and his Dam" has only few and remote parallels in the "Bear's-son" folk-tale.

But Panzer has, I think, proved that the struggle of Beowulf in the hall, and his plunging down into the deep, is simply an epic glorification of a folk-tale motive.

#### I. THE DATE OF THE DEATH OF HYGELAC.

Gregory of Tours mentions the defeat of Chochilaicus (Hygelac) as an event of the reign of Theudoric. Now Theudoric succeeded his father Chlodoweg, who died 27 Nov. 511. Theudoric died in 534. This, then, gives the extreme limits of time, but as Gregory mentions the event among the first occurrences of the reign, the period 512-520 has generally been suggested, or in round numbers about 515 or 516.

Nevertheless, we cannot attach much importance to the mere order followed by Gregory<sup>1</sup>. He may well have had no means of dating the event exactly. Of much more importance than the order, is the fact he records, that Theudoric did not

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Schmidt, *Geschichte der deutschen Stamme*, II, 495, 499, note 4.

defeat Chochilaicus in person, but sent his son Theudobert to repel the invaders

Now Theudobert was born before the death of his grandfather Chlodoweg. For Gregory tells us that Chlodoweg left, not only four sons, but a grandson Theudobert, *elegantem atque utilem*<sup>1</sup> *utilem* cannot mean that, at the time of the death of Chlodoweg, Theudobert was of age to conduct affairs of state, for Chlodoweg was only 45 at death<sup>2</sup>. The Merovingians were a precocious race, but if we are to allow Theudobert to have been at least fifteen before being placed in charge of a very important expedition, and Chlodoweg to have been at least forty before becoming a grandfather, the defeat of Hygelac cannot be put before 521, and probability would favour a date five or ten years later.

There is confirmation for this. When Theudobert died, in 548, he left one son only, quite a child and still under tutelage<sup>3</sup>, probably therefore not more than twelve or thirteen at most. We know the circumstances of the child's birth. Theudobert had been betrothed by his father Theudoric to a Longobardic princess, Wisigardis<sup>4</sup>. In the meantime he fell in love with the lady Déoterna<sup>5</sup>, and married her<sup>6</sup>. The Franks were shocked at this fickleness (*valde scandalizabantur*), and Theudobert had ultimately to put away Deoterna<sup>7</sup>, although they had this young son (*parvulum filium*), who, as we have seen, could hardly have been born before 535, and possibly was born years later. Theudobert then married the Longobardic princess, in the seventh year after their betrothal. So it cannot have been much before 530 that Theudobert's father was first arranging the Longobardic match. A king is not likely to have waited to find a wife for a son, upon whom his dynasty was to depend, till fifteen years after that son was of age to win a memorable victory<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> III, 1<sup>2</sup> II, 43<sup>3</sup> *Ἰαῖς νέος ἦν κομίδῃ, καὶ ἐπὶ ὑπὸ παιδοκόμῳ τιθηνόμενος*, Agathias, I, 4. *parvulus*, Gregory, IV, 6<sup>4</sup> Gregory, III, 20<sup>5</sup> III, 22<sup>6</sup> III, 23<sup>7</sup> III, 27<sup>8</sup> Many recent historians have expressed doubts as to the conventional date, 515, for Hygelac's death. J. P. Jacobsen, in the Danish translation of Gregory (1911) suggested 525-30 following him. Severinsen (*Danske Studier*, 1919, 96) suggested c. 526, as did Fredborg, *Det första årtalet i Sverige's historia*. L. Schmidt (*Geschichte der deutschen Stamme*, II, 500, note, 1918) suggested c. 528.

\* \* \* \* \*

So far I had written in 1921. Since then, these reasons have been disputed by Klaeber<sup>1</sup> and by Nerman<sup>2</sup>. Both are scholars with whom I find myself so often in agreement, and to whom I owe so much, that it seems necessary to re-examine the problem rather fully, especially as Hygelac's death is the one fixed point from which early Scandinavian history has to be dated, forward or backward.

Klaeber, following Cook<sup>3</sup>, emphasizes the early maturity of Merovingian days. But this, as we shall see later, is the very reason which makes the date 516 difficult.

Both Klaeber and Nerman seem to think that Gregory's authority tells so heavily in favour of 516 that we must not desert it on mere grounds of probability. But is this really so?

Gregory, in Chapter 2 of Book III of his *History*, deals with an event of 516, the enthronement of Quintianus as Bishop of Clermont. Hygelac's raid, which is narrated in Chapter 3, was, we are told, subsequent to this (*his ita gestis*). But this only gives us a *terminus a quo*. Then in the next chapter (4) Gregory tells how Herminafrid, king of Thuringia, murdered his brothers, first Berthachar and then Baderich. Now in the standard critical edition of Gregory's *History* (ed. Arndt and Krusch, 1884, in the *Monumenta*), the date 516 is placed in the margin against the death of Baderich. But, so far as I can gather, this dating goes back ultimately to the dates given by Gloel<sup>4</sup>, and the date (516) which Gloel gives for the death of Baderich largely depends upon the place of that event in Gregory's narrative next to the expedition of Hygelac, which Gloel dates 515.

So the argument goes in a circle, the death of Baderich dated from that of Hygelac, and then the death of Hygelac from that of Baderich.

Of course, if there were any independent evidence that this Thuringian affair happened in 516, then it *could* be argued that Hygelac's raid, since Gregory places it between two events of

<sup>1</sup> *Anglia*, L (N F xxxviii), 242-4.

<sup>2</sup> *Det svenska rikets uppkomst*, 1925, pp. 85-87.

<sup>3</sup> *J E G Ph* xxii, 424-7.

<sup>4</sup> *Zur Geschichte der alten Thüringer*, von Ad. Gloel, in *Forschungen zur deutschen Geschichte*, 1864. See especially p. 214.

516, is also to be dated in that year. But I know of no such evidence, and, even if we had it, the argument would be a very doubtful one, for Gregory was writing nearly sixty years later (c. 575) and may well have had no means of dating Hygelac's raid exactly. He had to put it somewhere, and such chronological inferences, derived merely from Gregory's order, are perilous<sup>1</sup>.

But, as a matter of fact, the whole tale of these Thuringian murders has been suspected by historians, for what seem very weighty reasons<sup>2</sup>. What Fortunatus tells us about the kinsfolk of St Radegund seems very difficult to harmonize with this story of domestic murder. And, granting it to be really true that Berthachar and Baderich *were* murdered by their brother Herminafrið, this must have taken place some considerable time after 516. For Berthachar, the first to be murdered according to Gregory, was the father of Radegund, and all the evidence<sup>3</sup> points to her not having been born till about 521. Berthachar had also a son, who was born, it would seem, later still<sup>4</sup>, apparently not very much before 530. So, if these murders *did* take place, there seems no reason why we need necessarily date them much before the great Thuringian war of c. 531, which put a stop to the career of Herminafrið.

<sup>1</sup> See Ludwig Schmidt, *Geschichte der deutschen Stämme*, II, 495, 499, note 4. On the uncertainty of Gregory's chronology of the reign of Chlodoweg, see Levison in the *Bonner Jahrbucher*, CIII, 42-67 (1898), *Zur Geschichte des Frankenkönigs Chlodoweg*.

<sup>2</sup> See Schmidt, *as above*.

<sup>3</sup> The account given by Fortunatus (*Vita Sanctae Radegundis*, cap. 2) makes it clear that she was not of marriageable age when she fell into the hands of the Franks, which was not before 531. A considerable period of education at Athes intervened before she married Lothar I. In 531 she must have been "a very young girl," "a child of ten" (See notes to Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*, translated by O. M. Dalton, I, 67, 102).

<sup>4</sup> Apparently St Radegund withdrew to the cloister about 550. (For evidence, see Wilhelm Meyer, *Der Gelegenheitsdichter Venantius Fortunatus*, in the *Abhandlungen der königl. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen*, NF, IV, 5, Berlin, 1901.) This withdrawal was caused by the murder of her brother, who was, Fortunatus tells us, *juvenis tenera lanugine barbae* (Fortunatus, *de exordio Thoringiae*, l. 133), therefore born hardly more than twenty years before—if indeed quite as much—and so presumably born about 530. This is confirmed by the fact that this brother had been intending to visit his cousin Hamalafred at the Byzantine court, but was dissuaded by his sister. Hamalafred was carried off to Byzantium with Witigis and other Gothic captives in 540. We must allow some time for him to rise in the Byzantine service, for news of this to reach Gaul, for his cousin to contemplate a visit to him, and subsequently to be murdered. All this tends to put the murder of Radegund's brother towards 550 and therefore his birth towards 530. (See Ad Glöel in *Forschungen zur deutschen Geschichte*, 1864, p. 212.)

Therefore all that we seem able to gather from the position of Hygelac's raid between chapters 2 and 4 of Gregory's *History* is, that it would be most suitably dated between 516 and some date preceding 531.

It has been argued<sup>1</sup> that Gregory placed Hygelac's raid where it comes in his *History*, because he had information that it occurred not long before the great Thuringian war of 531, and, by a misunderstanding, put it before his account of these obscure Thuringian murders. But this attempt to read into Gregory's arrangement of events an argument approximating Hygelac's raid to 531 seems just as forced as the more usual custom of approximating it to 516. Gregory merely places it between two events, and we cannot decide, from Gregory's words, its nearness to either.

Then Gregory goes on in the next chapter (5) to deal with Burgundian affairs, from 516, leading up to the horrible story of how Sigismund, king of Burgundy, caused his own son to be strangled. This was in 522. The fact that this chapter comes later in Gregory's *History* than Hygelac's raid, affords an argument that Hygelac's raid was before or in 522, but it certainly affords no argument that it was before or in 516. For although Gregory has to mention the accession of Sigismund in 516 before he goes on to speak of his murder of his son, the relevant date of this chapter is 522.

Yet all these chronological arguments, derived from the order in which Gregory places Hygelac's raid amid the events of the reign of Theudoric (511-534), are perilous, so that it is best to leave the date of the raid vague until we have seen if we can date it more accurately from the circumstances of the battle itself.

We have seen that Theudoric sent his son Theudobert to repel this (certainly very dangerous) raid. What is the earliest date when we can suppose him to have been in charge of a very important expedition<sup>2</sup>? Historians who have no axe to grind, one way or another, place Theudobert's birth not before 510<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Fredborg, *Det första årtälet i Sveriges historia (Umeå högre allmänna läroverks årsredogörelse, 1916-17)*

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*, transl. by O. M. Dalton, I, 50.



If so, then, making all possible allowances for Merovingian precocity, we can hardly put the battle before 522.

And this is confirmed by the facts about Theudobert's marriage, quoted above. Here we have to reckon back from the age of his son, Theudobald. When St Gall, Bishop of Clermont, died in 551<sup>1</sup> Theudobald was so young that in electing a successor the bishops felt free to ignore their king (*rex vero parvulus est*, Gregory of Tours, iv, 6) Agathias also emphasizes his extreme youth when his father died in 548<sup>2</sup>. A boy who in 551 was *parvulus*, as *parvulus* went in Merovingian days, cannot have been born before, say, 538. Now, as we have seen, it was at most (and this is stretching the case) in the seventh year before the birth of this boy that Theudobert's father Theudoric was looking for a wife for him. This, then, can hardly have been before 531, nor can it be later than 534, since Theudoric died in the latter year (Theudobert, however, had a will of his own, and it was not till after his father's death, in the seventh year of their betrothal, that he accepted the long-suffering Longobardic bride whom his father had provided for him<sup>3</sup>). A king did not, in Merovingian days, wait till his only son was becoming middle-aged before seeking for a bride for him, fifteen years is a long space to allow between Theudobert's appearance as a victorious general and as a potential bridegroom.

Further, on the death of Theudobert's father in 534, his uncles, Childebert and Lothar I, tried to deprive him of his kingdom: he was established as king by the support of his *leudes*<sup>4</sup>. This attempt at deprivation again suggests youth.

On the other hand we have seen that Gregory tells us that when Chlodoweg died at the end of 511 he left, not only four sons, but this grandson Theudobert, whom Gregory speaks of as *elegantem atque utilem*. Klaeber<sup>5</sup> argues that Gregory would not have characterized a small child in this way. This would be a strong argument if we were dealing with a strictly contem-

<sup>1</sup> This is the date given in Dalton (ii, 516). Arndt and Krusch in their margin give the date 554, but it is safer to take the figure least favourable to the argument put forward.

<sup>2</sup> See above, p. 382, note 3.

<sup>3</sup> Gregory, iii, 20, 22, 27.

<sup>4</sup> Gregory, iii, 23.

<sup>5</sup> Klaeber in *Anglia*, L (N F xxxviii), 243.

porary account. But Gregory, writing two generations later, naturally gives his description and character of the prince in the place where he first has occasion to mention him, it is surely putting an impossible strain on the words of such a historian as Gregory, to suppose that he would not have used the word *utilis* of the prince, unless at this date he had actually proved himself to be *utilis*

Nerman adheres to the early date (516), arguing that Gregory may have been mistaken in thinking that Theudobert was in command of the Franks the infant Theudobert may have happened to be in that part of the land when the raid took place, and so in later days may wrongly have been supposed to have commanded the defenders. And of course, if we had substantial evidence to date Hygelac's raid in 516, we might be driven to explanations like this to account for Gregory's assertion that a prince, apparently at that date not more than six or seven, was sent by his father to repel the invaders. But we need no such explanations. All the evidence points to Hygelac's raid having been after 516 and probably after 520, although perhaps before 522 and certainly before 531



## CHAPTER II

### THE HISTORICAL ELEMENTS

#### SECTION I THE *GEATAS* ONCE AGAIN

THE question is still being debated whether the wars which figure so largely in the later part of *Beowulf* were waged between Swedes and Gauts (*Gautar*, the *Gōtar* of what is now Southern Sweden) or between Swedes and Jutes.

It was, as we all know, the paper by Pontus Fahlbeck in favour of the Jute-theory which "first raised the question from the region of guesswork to that of scholarly discussion<sup>1</sup>." Nearly thirty years after this publication, Fahlbeck reinforced his case by a further paper of the same title, read before the Swedish Academy. This was published in 1924.

I do not mean again to reopen the "Jute question" at length, after having discussed it twice above<sup>2</sup>. Yet Fahlbeck's re-appearance in the arena cannot be passed over quite in silence.

Fahlbeck now lays greatest stress upon the phrases like *ofer sǣ*, which occur so often in the account of the wars of Swedes and Geatas. "What I must maintain," he says, "is, that the words *ofer sǣ*, *ofer sǣ sīde*, *ofer uīd wæter*, *ofer heafo*, can have only one meaning, 'over the sea,' and that sea must be either the West Sea or the East Sea"—or, to use English terminology, either the Cattegat or the Baltic.

Fahlbeck's argument is that the Geatas must have been separated from the Swedes by "sea," in the limited sense which that word bears in Modern English, of the open salt water. Therefore, he argues, they must be Jutes, not Gautar.

But it is only in Modern English that the meaning of the word "sea" has become limited in this way. In Old English (as to this day in German) the word can mean either a fresh-water lake or the salt sea. It has been objected that the same word

<sup>1</sup> Nerman, *Det svenska rikets uppkomst*, 1925, p. 109.

<sup>2</sup> pp. 6-10 and 333-45.

would not be used in the same poem in both senses and that, in certain places in *Beowulf*, *sǣ* certainly means the open sea. But, in fact, the word can be used in both senses in one sentence. Take the description of the Nile in Alfred's *Orosius* it rises not far from the Red Sea (*þære Rēadan Sǣs*), sinks in the sand, rises from the sand and makes a great lake (*ond þær wyrð micelne sǣ*), from this lake (*of þæm sǣ*) it flows on, again becomes a great lake (*wyrð to mīclum sǣ*), passes near its original source not far from the Red Sea (*þone Rēadan Sǣ*) and flows out into the Mediterranean (*ūt on þone Wendelsǣ*). In one paragraph, then, *sǣ* is three times used for a fresh-water lake, three times for the salt sea. It may be that the inland sense is the more primitive of the two for the oldest examples of the word (in Gothic) invariably have an inland meaning<sup>1</sup>.

We have less information about *heafu*. It occurs in the *Corpus* gloss<sup>2</sup> as a synonym of Latin *salum*, "sea", elsewhere it is found in English only in this passage in *Beowulf*, and is conjecturally restored in another *Beowulf* passage. But, however rare in English, the word is common Germanic, and in Low German it signifies a sheet of inland water, as in *das Frische Haff*.

*Sǣ* and *heafu*, then, are the very words which would naturally be used of a great inland lake like Wener. And Lake Wener would naturally come into the fighting, if Swedes and Western Gautar attacked each other.

But Fahlbeck has a further objection that, in that case, the fighting would be not entirely "over the sea" but partly at least by land. Yet surely this is precisely the impression which the account of the fighting recorded in *Beowulf* actually does give, to any unprejudiced reader. That is how it struck Brandl: "It suits the geographical position of the Gautar that Beowulf's people fight the Swedes, sometimes after crossing the water (2380, 2394, 2473) and sometimes by land (2477, 2925, etc.)"<sup>3</sup>.

It is indisputable that we are dealing with two great sea powers. The Geatas, whether they be Jutes or Gautar, are able to make a Viking expedition as far as Friesland, the Swedes had

<sup>1</sup> *Sauus* is used to translate the Greek *λίμνη* in Luke v, 1, 2, and viii, 22, 23, 33. *sauus* is also used in the Naples Gothic charter to signify "a marsh."

<sup>2</sup> Sweet, *Oldest English Texts*, 1885, *salum*, *haeb*, p. 95 (1778).

<sup>3</sup> *Pauls Grundriss*, second edition, II 1, 997.

been famous for their ships from the time of Tacitus<sup>1</sup> How is it that, even when the opposing forces reach each other by water, the actual fighting always takes place on land, so that we never hear of fighting from ships? Is it reasonable to suppose that Jutes and Swedes, two peoples altogether cut off from each other by the sea, could for generations have made a practice of harrying each other's country by sea-raids, and yet never have had a sea-fight? This is the state of things depicted in *Beowulf*, between the Geatas and the Swedes Yet surely it is an axiom that there is no more risky business than a landing over the sea in an enemy's country, when that enemy has a fleet in being equal or superior to one's own Between Jutes and Swedes there must have been a fight for the command of the sea, and then the victorious party would invade the land of the vanquished Why then does fighting by sea not come into the story?

Surely the answer is that we have an example of that Scandinavian manner of fighting which the Northman Ohthere explained to King Alfréd "There are very large fresh-water lakes," we read in the *Orosius*, "and the Cwenas carry their ships over-land to the lakes, and thence they harry the Northmen they have very small ships and very light ones" I have always regarded the *synn ond sacu Swēona ond Gēata ofer wīd wæter* as fighting of this kind, and so I suppose has every other editor of *Beowulf*

And so, if the raiding takes place between Gautar and Swedes, everything is as it should be Both sides, no doubt, had plenty of sea-going ships, but these salt-water vessels would be much too heavy to be used in raids made through a line of great lakes, rivers and portages Canoes would be used drawing little water and capable of being carried considerable distances Neither party would, probably, keep up permanent fleets on scattered waterways, unconnected as yet by canals The light canoes, carried across and launched first on one piece of water and then on another, were not fighting ships That is why the two forces always meet, as fighting men, on land (or ice), for all that they are harrying each other *ofer wīd wæter*

It may be said that all this is not very conclusive, because

<sup>1</sup> *Germania*, xlv

the account in *Beowulf*, as we have it, was composed in a strange land some two hundred years after the events, what right have we to ask that it should reflect exactly the facts of the actual fighting? And I admit that arguments and deductions of the kind which have just been drawn are not quite conclusive. For that reason it is important to keep always clearly in mind that the interpretation of *Gēatas* as *Gautar* is not based upon this, or any number of similar geographical and historical considerations, but upon the simple fact that the word *Gēatas* is the O E form of the O N *Gautar*, and is quite distinct from Jutes, which in O E is *Ēote*, *Țte*.

In the text of *Beowulf* as we have it, Hygelac's people are always called *Gēatas*, never *Ēote* or *Țte*, and the alliteration upon *G* proves that the text which lies before us in this respect represents the original. It is the supporters of the Jute-theory who ask us to ignore these obvious facts, on the ground that the account of the fighting *ofer sǣ* suits Jutes better than *Gautar*. We look into it, and we find that the exact reverse is the case. It suits *Gautar* better than Jutes. Possibly the argument from the words *ofer sǣ* is not conclusive on either side: the point is that, for what it is worth, it does not support the Jute-theory, but tells against it.

The same lakes which formed an avenue of attack by light boats in summer would, when frozen in winter, offer a broad road into the enemy's country. We are told that Beowulf with his army supported Eadgils against Onela, king of Sweden, *ofer sǣ sīde*, took vengeance upon Onela, and slew him in "chill journeys fraught with woe," *cealdum cearsīðum*. This need not necessarily mean that Beowulf attacked in winter over the frozen lake, for *ceald* in Old English can be used metaphorically, as we say "bitter" or "sharp". But when we turn to the Scandinavian sources we have a record of this very battle in which Onela (Ah) was slain: it is said to have been fought on Lake Wener, then frozen over, *á ísi vats þess er Væni heitir*<sup>1</sup>, *á Vænis ísi*, in stagno *Waener, glacie jam obducto*<sup>2</sup>. These are late sources, it may be replied. But in the *Kálfsvisa*, which dates apparently from the

<sup>1</sup> Snorri, *Edda*, ed. Jonsson, p. 108.

<sup>2</sup> See above, p. 7.

Viking time and is certainly a record of early tradition, the same battle is spoken of as taking place "when they rode to the ice<sup>1</sup>"

So the historical and geographical argument, called in to support the Jute-theory, is found, here again and even more conclusively, to count, if it counts at all, against it. For a battle fought on the ice of Lake Wener exactly suits Swedes and Western Gautar.

For an understanding of the early history of Scandinavia it is essential to decide this question, to the best of our power we must settle it before going further. Yet a scholar has recently spoken of the discussion as "futile<sup>2</sup>," and it is easy to understand the irritation which led him to use the term, and subsequently himself to make a (quite necessary) contribution<sup>3</sup> to the "futile" discussion.

Now that Fahlbeck, who began the debate in 1883, has made his reply, it is surely time for the discussion to be closed. In opening it, Fahlbeck did not deny that *Gēatas* is the Old English word corresponding to *Gautar*. Now if we are going to interpret a tribal name as something quite different from its obvious linguistic meaning, overwhelming geographical and historical reasons should be found for doing so. But they have not been found. On the contrary, the very reasons in virtue of which we are asked to set aside the obvious interpretation of *Gēatas* as *Gautar* can be shown, on examination, to favour Gautar rather than Jutes. All that the partizans of the Jute-theory seem now to be doing is to claim a verdict of "not proven" on certain obscure and irrelevant side-issues. Thus a very able young Swedish historian, Curt Weibull, has recently revived the controversy<sup>4</sup>. Some of his points may be quite sound but they do not touch the real question. I am, and always have been, ready to admit that Schuck went too far in claiming Halland as part of the Geatic kingdom. But although that may concern the student of early Scandinavian history, trying to make out the exact boundaries of the different kingdoms, it does not concern

<sup>1</sup> See above, as before, and also Nerman, *Det svenska rikets uppkomst*, 1925, p. 102.

<sup>2</sup> Kemp Malone, *M. L. R.* xx, 11 (1925).

<sup>3</sup> *Acta Philologica Scandinavica*, iv, 84-90 (1929).

<sup>4</sup> *Om det svenska och det danska rikets uppkomst*, *Historisk Tidskrift för Skåneland*, vii, 301-69. See especially footnote to p. 312.



the student of *Beowulf*, because Schuck's case that the Geatas are the Gautar is not weakened, even if he be wrong about Halland<sup>1</sup> Inferences such as Schuck drew<sup>2</sup> from the *Heimskringla* or Adam of Bremen are, it has been urged, very uncertain evidence as to what the coastline of the Vestgotar really was as early as the sixth century A D.<sup>3</sup> Of course they are but this only tells the more against those who, on admittedly ambiguous and uncertain grounds, seek to ignore the obvious meaning of two tribal names The difficulties which the defenders of the Jute-theory have to explain away are (a) how the word *Gēatas*, which means *Gautar*, comes in *Beowulf* to be applied to a different people, viz the Jutes, and (b)—a much more serious difficulty—how, if Hygelac's people were Jutes, a poem as long as *Beowulf* could be written in Anglo-Saxon England about them without ever mentioning them by their correct name of Jutes (*Ēote*, *ȳte*). Weibull refuses to go into these linguistic difficulties But they are crucial<sup>4</sup> It will not do to base our argument upon the assumption that when *Beowulf* says one thing it means another A treatment of the subject which claims serious attention must face this linguistic problem.

In his recent book<sup>5</sup> Prof E Wadstein does face the difficulty and in this way Let it be supposed, he says, that the subject matter of *Beowulf* reached England through the Frisians, and that the English poet adopted the name of the Jutes in the form in which he heard it from the Frisians This form, Wadstein argues, would be "Iatar" (the name is not recorded in Frisian) and this would be represented in English spelling by "Geatas."

This theory is put forward with such learning and conviction that it is held by many to have placed the Jute-theory on its legs again, so far at least as to demand a new examination of the subject<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See the arguments in Nerman, *Det svenska rikets uppkomst*, 1925, pp 43, 51

<sup>2</sup> See above, p 339

<sup>3</sup> As is urged by Ekwall in *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxxiii, 180 (1922)

<sup>4</sup> See above, pp 333-8

<sup>5</sup> *Norden och Vasteuropa i gammal tid*, Stockholm, 1925, pp 18 ff, 161 ff

<sup>6</sup> "Falls Wadsteins Ausführungen das richtige treffen, sind es nicht die Gautar (Gotar) sondern die Juten von denen im Beowulf die Rede ist. Die ganze Frage erheischt eine erneute Prüfung" Uhlenbeck in *Acta Philologica Scandinavica*, iii, 174 Wadstein's arguments are met by Kemp Malone, *Acta Phil* iv, 84-90.

Yet the theory seems to undermine its own foundations. For, if the Geatas are Jutes, why should knowledge of their deeds reach England by way of the Frisians? The Jutes, according to Bede, were the first of the Germanic tribes to make a settlement in England, and for generations the Angles, their next neighbours on the Continent, were crossing over and settling in England. There was intimacy and intermarriage between the Jutish court of Kent and the Anglian court of Northumbria. Why should Englishmen in England have to hear, through the Frisians, of the deeds of their Jutish kinsmen who had remained on the Continent<sup>1</sup>? Again, how is the theory that the subject matter of *Beowulf* reached the English through the Frisians compatible with the fact that we find no further traces of this supposed Frisian origin in other proper names in *Beowulf*? Again, how is it compatible with the fact that the story is emphatically not influenced by any Frisian standpoint? Frisians are mentioned not infrequently in *Beowulf*<sup>2</sup>, but always as a foreign or hostile nation, and incidents concerning them are invariably told from the non-Frisian point of view.

And, even if the English had learnt of the deeds of their kinsmen remaining on the Continent through the Frisians, why should they therefore have attempted to express in English the Frisian pronunciation of the name of one of the tribes of which they themselves were composed? They would assuredly, in repeating the story, have repeated the familiar name in its English form, according to the dialect, Anglian, Saxon, or Kentish, which they spoke, and none of these dialects would have given them the form "Geatas"<sup>3</sup>.

Finally, it has been shown by Prof. Kemp Malone that it is exceedingly improbable that the Frisian form of the name Jute was "Iatar"—the one form which is necessary to support the argument<sup>4</sup>.

How is an improbable theory rendered more plausible by

<sup>1</sup> Wadstein would no doubt reply to this that he rejects the whole of Bede's account of the Jutes and Angles as unhistorical. See *The Origin of the English*, by E. Wadstein, Uppsala, 1927.

<sup>2</sup> 1069-1159, 1207, 2912-15.

<sup>3</sup> This is very excellently urged by Wessén, *De nordiska folkstammarna*, 1927, p. 56.

<sup>4</sup> See his important discussion of this in detail, *Acta Phil.* iv, 85-7.

being made to depend upon another theory, itself improbable, through a series of deductions, each also highly improbable? Yet it is thus, if at all, that the identification of Geatas as Jutes has now to be defended. The controversy seems to be drifting away from reality altogether.

Yet it cannot be denied that in the past there has been unreality in the arguments, not only on one, but on both sides, because the Icelandic authorities actually *do* represent, not the Gautar, but the Jutes of Vendel in North Jutland as the foes of one of the very Swedish kings whom *Beowulf* mentions. This can only be accounted for if we suppose a confusion between two places of the same name, "Vendel." So it has been open to the Jute-theorists to retort that their opponents, by assuming such a "name shift," are doing the very thing which they are refusing to permit the Jute-theorists to do. But, fortunately, recent archæological investigation has settled this particular problem, and with it, let us hope, concluded for ever this memorable controversy. To this archæological investigation we must now turn.

## SECTION II. RECENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERY THE BURIAL MOUND OF OTTAR VENDEL-CROW, COMPARED WITH THE KINGS' MOUNDS AT UPPSALA<sup>1</sup>

The only valid historical argument in favour of the Jute-theory was that brought forward by Bugge. In the *Ynglinga tal*, and in its prose paraphrase and expansion, the *Ynglinga saga*, the early Swedish kings are enumerated. Three of them, Athils, his father Ottar, and Ottar's father Egil, are clearly identical with Eadgils, his father Ohthere, and (despite the difference of name here) Ohthere's father Ongentheow<sup>2</sup>. Now, in *Beowulf*, we hear of raids which Ohthere made upon the Geatas. But the district which Ottar raids in the *Ynglinga saga* is not Gautland, but Vendel in the north of Jutland. He was

<sup>1</sup> I was able to give a very hasty account of these discoveries in my first edition (see above, pp 343-5), but so much work has been done since, and the discoveries are of such importance, that it seemed better<sup>2</sup> to restate them at length.

<sup>2</sup> See note 2 to p. 411 below.

slain, and his body exposed, we are told, upon a mound in Vendel, to be torn to pieces by carrion birds. Then the victors made a crow of wood, and sent it to Sweden, telling the Swedes that their king was worth no more than that. So Ottar was called *Vendel-kråka*, "the Vendel-crow." But other early documents attributed this name (without any explanatory story), not to Ottar, but to his father Egil, who is to be identified with the Ongentheow who, according to *Beowulf*, was slain by the Geatas.

This certainly seems to depict not the Gautar, but the Jutes of Vendel as the hereditary foes of Ohthere and his father Ongentheow. Until this difficulty has been accounted for, the question of the nationality of the Geatas of *Beowulf* cannot be regarded as finally settled.

The late Dr Knut Stjerna published three papers dealing with the Swedes and Geatas. He was a strong advocate of the view that the Geatas are the Gautar (Gotar). He tried to connect with the stories given in *Beowulf* the three great mounds which stand at Old Uppsala. He re-examined the discoveries which had been made when these mounds had been explored, and came to the conclusion that the mounds formed a series, the one nearest to the church being the oldest. He dated this mound about the year A.D. 500 or a little before<sup>1</sup>. He did not identify any one of these mounds with any individual king, though he is known to have believed that Athils-Eadgils was probably buried under one of them<sup>2</sup>.

Stjerna further called attention to a mound near the Swedish Vendel (a place some twenty-two miles north of Uppsala). This mound in size was comparable with the largest of the royal mounds at Old Uppsala. Stjerna tried to show that the word "Vendel-crow" had been given to the Swedish kings because of their connection, not with the Jutish district of Vendel, but with the Swedish place of the same name. He supposed that they had had a stronghold there, and that it was there that Ongentheow had taken refuge when he retreated before the victorious Geatas. But Stjerna thought that, by a natural confusion, the Norwegian authors connected Vendel with Vendel in Jutland,

<sup>1</sup> *Essays on Beowulf*, translated by Clark Hall, Coventry, 1912, p. 234.

<sup>2</sup> Nerman, *Vulka-konungar ligga i Uppsala högar?*, p. 14.

which was more familiar to them. This, he conjectured, had given rise to the story that Ottar died in the Jutish Vendel.

Such a theory of name-shifting is open to the gravest suspicion, unless backed by documentary evidence. Now one piece of such evidence in support of Stjerna's theory was, that there is a grave mound, called by the name of Ottar (*Ottarshögen*), and that this is not in the Jutish, but in the Swedish Vendel.

Stjerna did not think it necessary to mention this. He probably believed the name to be a mere piece of recent antiquarian conjecture. In modern times, prominent mounds have so often been christened with ancient names by romantic antiquaries, that it is well to be cautious.

Stjerna's premature death in 1909 interrupted these studies. But in the following year a discovery was made which gave a new importance to his conjecture.

It was found that for much more than two centuries the mound at the Swedish Vendel had been commonly called by Ottar's name. For in the latter half of the seventeenth century an official survey of antiquities was carried out throughout Sweden. It was in 1677 that a meeting of the leading parishioners was held at Vendel, and they reported, among other things, that "many earthen barrows are to be found here, but especially by Hussby there is a great earthen barrow, which is called *Otters högen*." The records of this survey were deposited in the Royal Library at Stockholm, and there this entry was found<sup>1</sup>. Later, this was confirmed by the discovery of an allusion, in 1675, to "*Utters hogen i Wandell*"<sup>2</sup>. The mound is mentioned in connection with the practice of sorcery, and in a way which shows the name to have been current. But if the name was in popular use as early as 1675, it cannot reasonably be attributed to the modern romantic archæologist. Whoever the Ottar may have been, after whom the mound was named, the name presumably comes down from ancient times.

The conjecture of Knut Stjerna, that Ottar Vendel-crow got his name not from the Danish but from the Swedish Vendel,

<sup>1</sup> Otto v Friesen, *När Sverige blev till* (Upsala Nya Tidnings Julnummer, 1910).

<sup>2</sup> See E. Lunderholm, *Vendelshögens konunganamn i socknens 1600-talstradition*, in *Namn och Bygd*, VII, 36-40 (1919).

received therefore documentary support. But not support of a conclusive kind, since it was by no means *proved* that the Ottar after whom the mound was named was the Ottar king of Sweden to whom *Beowulf* and the *Ynglinga tal* refer. The nickname "Vendel-crow" would have put the identification with the king of the *Ynglinga tal* beyond doubt. But this nickname was not so authentically connected with the mound as was the name Ottar. And there have been many Ottars.

Meanwhile, in 1913, Prof. Birger Nerman published his short but most important pamphlet on the question, "What kings he buried under the mounds at Uppsala?" Tradition, as he pointed out, had regarded the three great mounds as "Kings' mounds". But what kings?

Apart from *Beowulf*, our knowledge of the early Swedish kings is entirely derived from the *Ynglinga tal*, which, if we neglect the three names of gods with which it begins, covers twenty-seven generations, ending with Ragnvald, who was living when the *Ynglinga tal* was composed in his honour, say about 870. The surviving fragments of the *Ynglinga tal* have come down to us because they are embodied in the *Ynglinga saga* of Snorri, which forms the first section of the *Heimskringla*. Snorri's prose gives us some further information. How much this is paraphrased from the portions of the *Ynglinga tal* which he does *not* quote, it is difficult to decide.

Now Nerman's point was that three of the Swedish kings, as enumerated by Snorri in the *Ynglinga saga*, are mentioned by him as having been laid in mound in Uppsala<sup>1</sup>. One of these is Athils, the Eadgils of *Beowulf*. Athils' father Ottar is out of the reckoning, for according to the *Ynglinga saga* he was devoured by carrion fowls in Vendel in Jutland and even if this be an error, and if "Ottar's mound" in the Swedish Vendel was raised over him, that is equally inconsistent with burial at Uppsala. Ottar's father Egil (the Ongentheow<sup>2</sup> of *Beowulf*) is also said to

<sup>1</sup> See also Nerman, *Det svenska rikets uppkomst*, 1925, p. 139.

<sup>2</sup> Despite the difference of name, there would seem to be a shadowy personality which we can claim as identical. Egil and Ongentheow occupy the same place in the genealogy, that of father of Othhere-Ottar. Ongentheow was slain by the Geatic warrior Eofor (Boar). Of Egil it is recorded in the *Ynglinga tal* that his blood reddened *farra tráno*. Now *farra* can be interpreted either as "bull" (O E *fearr*) or as "boar" (O E *fearh*). But *trjona*, "snout," is decisive.

have been laid in mound in Uppsala, and *his* father, Aun the ancient, likewise

No other Swedish kings are mentioned as having been buried in Uppsala<sup>1</sup>

It is to be noted that this mention of burial at Uppsala is found only in the prose of Snorri. The very much older *Ynglinga tal* does not, in its extant fragments, mention this *burial*, although in the case of both Aun and Athils *death* at Uppsala is mentioned, and that might be held to involve burial there. Anyway, it is noteworthy that Snorri should mention three, and three only, of these Swedish kings as buried at Uppsala, and that there should be the three great "kings' mounds" there.

Now, as Nerman pointed out, we can date these kings fairly accurately from *Beowulf*, and from the one firm chronological fact which *Beowulf* gives us, Hygelac's death. Hygelac is succeeded by his young son, Heardred, who grows up, befriended by Beowulf. Ohthere dies, apparently leaving his sons Eadgils and Eanmund too young to take the throne. Anyway, Ohthere's brother Onela becomes king, and Eadgils and Eanmund revolt against him, and take refuge with Heardred. Onela follows his nephews, and slays Heardred, but Beowulf and Eadgils escape. So Ohthere's death must have fallen probably a little later than Hygelac's, say somewhere about<sup>2</sup> the year 525. Ohthere can hardly have been very aged at the time of his death, his brother comes to the throne presumably because Ohthere's sons are too

in favour of "boar," although Snorri understood "bull" (See *Ynglinga tal*, text, *översättning och kommentar* av Ad Noreen, 1925, *Akademiens Handlingar*, xxviii, 2, pp 202-3, 236.) It can hardly be mere accident that the father of Ohthere in one version is slain by a warrior named "Boar," and in the other by a boar. The problem of the different names remains unsolved. The difficulties in the way of supposing the one or the other a nickname, or Egil (\**Agilar*) a shortened form of the longer name, are discussed by Björkman (*Eigenamen i Beowulf*, pp 91-9). For a suggestion of *Ongenþeow* as a title, see Malone, *Literary History of Hamlet*, i, 117 etc.

<sup>1</sup> The three gods with whom the list begins may be left out of the reckoning. Of them, Frey is said to have been buried in Uppsala. The Danish king Haldan is also said by Snorri to have conquered Sweden and to have been buried in Uppsala. But this lacks any kind of confirmation. It is not, of course, in the *Ynglinga tal*.

<sup>2</sup> Nerman originally suggested 530-40 (*Uppsala högar*, p 11). Subsequently he suggested 525 (*Det svenska rikets uppkomst*, 1925, p 137). I think Nerman reckons Hygelac's death at least four or five years too early, but he allows more time than I should between Hygelac's death and that of Ohthere so that I agree with the year 525 as being the likeliest approximation we can get to the death of Ohthere.



THE KINGS' MOUNDS AT OLD UPSALA



OTTAR'S MOUND IN VENDEL



OTTAR'S MOUND (another view)



BUCKET CONTAINING REMAINS, FOUND IN OTTAR'S MOUND





young to succeed<sup>1</sup>. The father of Ohthere, Ongentheow (Egil), *was* however old when he was slain *Beowulf* is very explicit about that

So something much less than a full generation should be allowed between his death and that of his son Ohthere. On the other hand, Ongentheow was killed in the campaign with which Hygelac's reign begins—so he presumably died some considerable time before 520. We may put his death, then, in the opening years of the century, say about 510.

The father and predecessor of Ongentheow is not mentioned in *Beowulf*, but the *Ynglinga tal* records him as Aun. He is the stock example of a very aged man, so that when a man dies of old age it is known as "Aun's sickness". His death may be placed therefore much less than a full generation before that of his son, Ongentheow (Egil) say at the end of the fifth century, or at the latest about the year 500.

We have been reckoning backwards from the death of Ohthere, c. 525. If now we reckon forwards, allowing for the fact that his son Athils was apparently only a boy when Ohthere died, that after returning from his exile he had a long and prosperous reign, and died, as the *Ynglinga tal* tells us, *dægsæll*, "full of days," we can hardly date his death before 570, the date Nerman gives. It might possibly be dated even later, if we allow threescore years and ten for a man who was *dægsæll*, and make Eadgils fifteen at his father's death in 525, we need not kill him till the year of grace 580. (This date, as we shall see, would suit Nerman's calculations even better than 570. But it is characteristic of the caution Nerman shows in working out these dates that he never presses a date the least bit in favour of his own argument.)

Taking then the three Swedish kings whom Snorri records to have been buried at Uppsala, the youngest, Athils, seems to have died 570-580. The next in age, Athils' grandfather, Ongentheow

<sup>1</sup> This seems clear from *Beow* 2381 "They had revolted against Onela," and from the fact that, according to *Ynglinga tal*, their father Ohthere (Ottar) had been kung. If either of them had been of age to succeed to the throne on Ohthere's death, Onela might nevertheless have driven them out but in that case they could hardly have been regarded as revolting against him. Eadgils was clearly able enough youth must have been the disability. That Ohthere was the elder, Onela the younger brother, seems clear (see Malone in *Philological Quarterly*, viii, 406).

(Egil), seems to have died quite early in the century, say about 510, and his father (Aun) say at the end of the fifth century, or at latest about 500

Nerman then proceeded to compare these dates with the dates which antiquaries had given to the three mounds Stjerna, as we have seen, had dated the oldest mound, that nearest the church, at the end of the fifth century, or about 500. This fits in exactly with the date of the death of Aun

Montelius had dated the latest mound about 600, and this agrees as well as can reasonably be expected with the date we have attributed to Athils' death, 570-580.

The mound between has never been properly explored, and the actual burial—presumably a cremation one—has not been examined, but the preliminary investigation seemed to show that the mound, in structure as in position, was intermediate between the other two mounds, but had much greater similarity to the earlier one. This fits in with the date of Ongentheow (Egil), not long after 500, say perhaps 510

Anyone who studies carefully Stjerna's arguments for the dating of the oldest mound about 500, must see how approximate and provisional all this dating of necessity is. But the point to emphasize is that these dates were given to the mounds by archaeologists on purely archaeological grounds, and with no idea whatever of making them fit in with these particular kings, or with the dates which, working upon *Beowulf*, we should attribute to these kings

Nerman concluded his study in 1913 by pointing out that this provisional dating of the Uppsala mounds made an investigation of Ottar's mound in Vendel desirable. Outwardly, that mound closely resembled the Uppsala mounds. If its contents showed it to belong to the same period as the Uppsala finds, the identification of four of the most noteworthy early monuments in Sweden would be confirmed

The State Antiquary, Bernhard Salin, was particularly interested in this kind of collation of literary with archaeological evidence, to which he himself had made an important contribution. He began the excavation of Ottar's mound in 1914. Other duties however intervened, and responsibility for the work fell

upon Sune Lindqvist. The war delayed matters, but Lindqvist finished his task in 1916, and published an account of the discoveries in *Fornvannen*<sup>1</sup> in 1917.

A briefer account of the discoveries, with a running comment explaining their importance, was published in the same year by Nerman<sup>2</sup>. Then in 1925, in his epoch-making book on "The Foundation of the Swedish Kingdom" (*Det svenska rikets uppkomst*), Nerman gave a full explanation of all that the new discoveries meant. "The year before, a paper on this subject from him had been read to the Viking Society in London, and this has now been published<sup>3</sup>. Readers will find it a useful summary. But it is much to be wished that a complete English translation of Nerman's remarkable book were forthcoming. Meantime I have to thank Prof. Nerman for permission to translate the relevant pages from his pamphlet *Ottar Vendelkråka* and I have to thank him and Prof. Lindqvist for permission to reproduce photographs of the discoveries in Ottar's mound.

"Ottar's mound is about 8 metres in height, and 40 in diameter, as compared with the Third Mound at Uppsala<sup>4</sup>, which is 10½ metres high and 60 metres in diameter. In its structure it proved to be closely related to the Uppsala mounds: it consisted of sand, covered by a layer of earth a metre thick, and had a cairn of stones at the bottom approximately in the centre. As in the case of the Uppsala mounds, this cairn had been heaped over burnt remains. For at Vendel, as at Uppsala, the dead king had been cremated at the place of burial: at Vendel a hole had been dug in the ground, the burnt remains had been swept into a heap and the hole filled with them; in the middle of the hole had been placed a handsome little wooden bucket, adorned with broad horizontal bands of gilded bronze, and filled to the brim with burnt bones, which had been cleaned; the other burnt remains, for which there was no room in the hole, had been collected round it, and the cairn raised over them. In the First Uppsala mound the arrangement had been just the same, only with the difference that the vessel containing the bones was of pottery. In the Third Uppsala mound there was neither a hole, nor a vessel for the burnt remains.

It is interesting to compare the stone cairn at Vendel with the Uppsala cairns. At Uppsala the cairns formed a series, diminishing in

<sup>1</sup> *Ottarshögen i Vendel*, pp. 127-43.

<sup>2</sup> *Ottar Vendelkråka och Ottarshögen i Vendel*, Uppsala.

<sup>3</sup> *Saga Book of the Viking Society*, x, 1928, 113-31.

<sup>4</sup> [The mounds have long been known to Scandinavian archaeologists as Odin's, Frey's and Thor's mounds. But in translating I have avoided this modern nomenclature, as it confuses the reader who is trying to remember them by the names of the kings in the *Ynglinga tal*. I number them in their order from the church (site of the temple), which is also their chronological order.]

size and elaboration. The cairn in the First Uppsala mound had a diameter of about fifteen metres, and was surrounded at the bottom by a carefully constructed stone wall, 1.2 metres high. The cairn in the Second Uppsala mound (which has only been cursorily examined) has a diameter of 10 metres: there was no stone wall. Finally, the cairn in the Third Uppsala mound, where again there was no stone wall, had a diameter of only 1.05 metres. The cairn in Ottar's mound had a diameter of about 7 metres, and there was no stone wall there either. So in the size of its cairn Ottar's mound is intermediate between the Second Uppsala mound [the mound of Egil-Ongentheow] and the Third [the mound of Athils-Eadgils], which agrees with the date of his death, between that of Egil and Athils.

The finds in Ottar's mound show a close resemblance to those in the mounds at Old Uppsala. It is noteworthy that in Ottar's mound, just as in the mounds at Uppsala, there is no indication of weapons. Just as in the Uppsala mounds, the finds in Ottar's mound were comparatively insignificant.

Amongst the burnt remains in Ottar's mound were found some small and obscure fragments of gold and silver, a belt-plate of iron, a strap-buckle of the same material and other belt-fittings of bronze, fragments of a glass vessel, a number of more or less complete half-spherical bone draughtsmen, provided with two holes on the under side, and a great number of fragments of such draughtsmen, fragments of a bone comb with its case, and of a little bone spoon. Besides the burnt human bones there were also found those of different animals.

But a surprisingly lucky discovery was also made in Ottar's mound. Among the burnt remains, close to the side of the bucket, was discovered a gold solidus of the Eastern Empire struck under the Emperor Basiliscus, who reigned A.D. 476-477. A hole is pierced in the coin, showing that it was used as a pendant. It is very worn.

The finds in the mound allow of its being accurately dated.

The belt-fitting in Ottar's mound was similar to one found in the First Uppsala mound, but similar ones have been found much earlier than c. 500. Draughtsmen of the same form as those in Ottar's mound were also found in the First Uppsala mound—but they are also found much later. Prof. Almgren has however pointed out to me, that whilst the earlier draughtsmen if pierced with holes have usually two, so far as is known hitherto draughtsmen after about 650 have never more than one. This connects Ottar's mound with the First Uppsala mound, but gives no definite dating.

The bone comb belongs to a type which is found in the Fifth and Sixth Centuries, but which undergoes certain changes in the latter part of the Sixth Century. It can therefore not be later than the second half of that century, and belongs rather to the time before 550 than after.

The gold coin is so much worn that a long time must have passed between the date when it was struck and when it was buried, so that we may date the burial some way on in the Sixth Century. On the other hand, solidi found in the North can generally be assumed not to have been in circulation for more than 75 to 100 years before being buried.

Finally, wooden buckets similar to the one found are known from Norway and Denmark. Docent Lindqvist tells me, that they can be to some extent classified in a series, and that the type of bucket found in Ottar's mound agrees, broadly, with the period indicated by the other finds.

The discoveries in Ottar's mound show, then, that it cannot be



FRAGMENT OF BELT  
FROM OTTAR'S MOUND



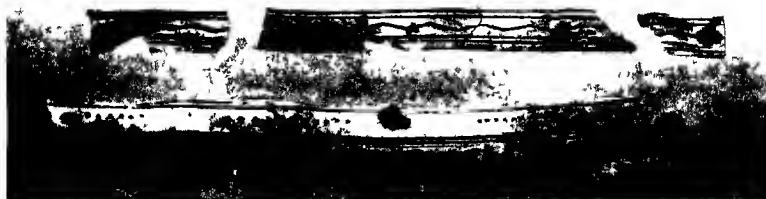
COIN OF BASILISCUS (A.D. 476-7)  
(Ottar's Mound)



COIN OF BASILISCUS (A.D. 476-7)  
(Undamaged specimen) for comparison



PLAYING PIECES FROM OTTAR'S MOUND



THE COIN OF OTTAR'S MOUND AND OTHER ARTIFACTS FROM OTTAR'S MOUND



earlier than the Sixth Century, and hardly belongs to the very beginning of that century. on the other hand it cannot be later than the Sixth Century and belongs rather to the time before 550 than after.

The size of the cairn in Ottar's mound is intermediate between the Second and the Third Uppsala mounds. So far as one can judge from this feature, it seems to indicate a date nearly contemporary with the Second mound, but a little later. And the Second mound has been shown<sup>1</sup> to belong to a time not long before 516.

So it appears from the enquiry, that Ottar's mound was raised in the first half of the Sixth Century, but not at the very beginning—that is to say, just at the time when the historic Ottar Vendel-crow must have died, 525–530.

So, the tradition maintained in Vendel in Uppland as proved correct. Ottar Vendel-crow was buried in the mound which bears his name today—the tradition has maintained itself for nearly 1400 years. It is an excellent example of the tenacity and trustworthiness of a local tradition of a certain type. At the same time it confirms in the strongest way my conjecture that Aun, Egl [Ongentheow] and Athils [Eadgils] were laid in mound in Old Uppsala.

On the other hand the tradition preserved by the *Ynglinga tal* and by Snorri has made a mistake regarding the Vendel with which Ottar is connected. Norwegian and Icelandic tradition, better acquainted with Jutland than with the more remote Uppland, has substituted Vendel in Jutland for Vendel in Uppland.

And so the discrepancy between *Beowulf* and the *Ynglinga saga* is explained. *Beowulf*, the older source, which mentions Ottar [Othere] in connection with the wars between Swedes and Gautar (Gotar), is right, as against the later *Ynglinga saga*, which makes him fight the Danes. But when Norwegian and Icelandic tradition represented the Vendel with which Ottar's name and burial were connected as Vendel in Jutland, it followed that some reason had to be found for Ottar's assumed presence there. The most obvious supposition was, that Ottar had made a raid upon Vendel and fallen there. The story of Ottar's raid, then, simply arises from a misunderstanding of the name Vendel: there is no reason to suppose, as I once believed, that it has its origin in traditions of battles between Swedes and Gautar, and of a Gautish invasion of Uppland, in which Ottar falls in Vendel. Our oldest source, *Beowulf*, knows nothing of any such story. *Beowulf* has nothing to say about the death of Ottar [Othere]. The whole story about Ottar in the *Ynglinga saga*, which is intrinsically open to suspicion, is thus shown to be fictitious. How its details arose it is impossible to decide. So much only is clear, that behind the story Snorri tells, of the body of Ottar being placed on a mound in Vendel in Jutland, lies the story that Ottar was laid in mound in Vendel in Uppland.

Snorri's story of the origin of the name 'Vendel-crow' can no longer be defended. It is merely an attempt to explain a nickname which had become unintelligible. But how is the nickname itself to be explained?

Schuck<sup>2</sup> thought the name 'Vendel-crow' a title of honour. The crow, as a carrion bird, was, like the raven and the vulture, associated

<sup>1</sup> [Egl is the second of the three Swedish kings said by Snorri to have been burned in Uppsala. Accepting the identification of Egl with Ongentheow, which can hardly be denied, his mound must have been raised some time before Hygelac's death, which Nerman here places in 516. See above.]

<sup>2</sup> *Studier i Ynglingatal*, p. 126.



with battle. So the name 'Vendel-crow' ought to mark its bearer as 'a bird preying on the carrion of the foes of Vendel.'

But meantime Oskar Lundberg, in an article published shortly after the opening of Ottar's mound, seems to have found the right explanation<sup>1</sup>.

Lundberg mentions that even today, when men from Vendel . . . come in the winter with their carts of charcoal through Dannemora, it may happen that a small boy will stand near the waggon, but out of range of the driver's whip, and make a long nose with the rhyme

Vendela kråka  
får jag åka.

'Crows' is a nickname for the men of Vendel, just as those of Österby are called *sjuror*, 'magpies,' and those of Morkarla 'ravens'

Lundberg shows that the name 'crows' for inhabitants of Uppland was known already soon after 1630 it is mentioned by I. H. Rhezelius as a nickname of the people of Malsta and Estuna in Eastern Uppland. Lundberg finds it therefore very probable that the nickname 'crows' for inhabitants of Vendel is very old. The name 'Vendel-crow,' according to him, is a rather derisive indication that Ottar was a 'Vendel-dweller.' Ottar's grandfather, father and son were buried in Uppsala. Ottar broke the tradition and so the name was imposed upon him by a local patriotism which favoured burial near the Uppsala sanctuary."

The archæologists have, then, finally disposed of the only serious historical argument which has ever been brought forward in favour of identifying the Geatas with the Jutes. Stjerna's reasoning alone was not convincing, and did not, for example, convince Axel Olrik, always one of the most determined supporters of the "Jute-theory." "I think," Olrik wrote at the very end of his life<sup>2</sup>, "that the last word has not been said concerning the nationality of the Geatas." Nerman and Lindqvist can surely claim to have settled for ever that most obstinate of all "philological legends," the identification of the Geatas with the Jutes.

But they have done more. The stories given in *Beowulf* of the struggle between Swedes and Geatas, with the prophecies of the complete subjugation of the Geatas by the Swedes, mark the beginnings of Sweden as we know it, which dates from this uniting into one nation of the Swedes and Geatas. The chronology which, with the help of *Beowulf*, has been demonstrated, shows Sweden to be one of the oldest of European states. Indeed, if we date Sweden back to the powerful state which Tacitus

<sup>1</sup> *Ottar Vendelkråka in Stockholms-Tidningen*, August 6, 1916.

<sup>2</sup> *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, p. 39.

mentions, it must rank as the oldest of all European kingdoms, but modern Sweden begins with the beginning of the incorporation of the Geatas into the Swedish realm in the sixth century. And simultaneously, under Hrothgar and his house, the mighty kings of Denmark, that realm also rises to eminence. And the Old English epic is the primary authority for these two events, with which begins the history of the nations of modern Europe<sup>1</sup>.

### SECTION III. *BEOWULF* AND EARLY DANISH HISTORY

*Olrik's interrupted work on methods of legend study* Knut Liestøl

Whilst archæological discoveries have helped to clear up the relation of *Beowulf* to early Swedish history, the bearings of our poem on early Danish history have been made plain by a systematic study of conflicting legends. Here the services of that great Dane, Axel Olrik, have been not less eminent than those of Stjerna, Nerman and Lindqvist with regard to the early history of Sweden. And, far beyond the range of the immediate subject under consideration, Olrik has outlined general principles which must be followed in the investigation of legend<sup>2</sup>.

Even when some accident has led Olrik wrong, his method is often vindicated. For although the new discovery as to the meaning of "Vendel-crow" has disproved the view, which Olrik shared, that the Geatas are the Jutes, nevertheless nothing could show more neatly than this discovery does how sound are the principles which Olrik lays down at the beginning of his great work, where he demonstrates how a tradition is lost save for some nickname or epithet, and how then a new story is invented to account for the misunderstood name or words.

<sup>1</sup> On this see Nerman, *Det svenska rikets uppkomst*, 1925, p. 267.

<sup>2</sup> Olrik was planning, at the end of his life, a book on *Method of Legend Research*, his notes on this subject were published posthumously *Nogle grund-sætninger for sagnforskning, efter forfatterens død udgivet af Dansk Folkemindesamling* ved Hans Ellekilde, København, 1921. We also have accessible, both in Danish and (as to Part I) English, *Danmarks Heltedigtning*, with the general principles outlined in the opening pages, and the constant application of such principles to specific problems throughout the book. Then there is Olrik's *Episke Love i Folkedigtningen*, in *Danske Studier*, 1908, pp. 69-89, *Folkedigtningens Episke Love* was printed in the *Nordisk Tidsskrift*, 1908, and reprinted in *Folkelige Afhandlinger*, 1919. A German version appeared in *Z f d A. LI*, 1-12 (1909). With this should be compared *Episke Grundlove*, by Moltke Moe, *Edda*, II, 1-16 (1914).

Of course, here, as everywhere, caution is needed. It is going too far to speak of epic *laws*—they are, as Heusler has said, rather tendencies than laws<sup>1</sup>. Nor can we always use them as a criterion of historic fact and epic fiction—for historic fact will often conform to the rules of fiction. Thus Olrik emphasizes the love of the folk-tale for the number three<sup>2</sup>. Liestøl shows how prominent this number is in the story of Knut Skraddar, coming eleven times in less than fourteen octavo pages. Yet a study of documents shows again and again that these suspicious threes correspond to actual fact “Some of the things which have been written about the ‘Epic law of three’ remind us not a little of the arguments which, with many and good reasons, have shown that Napoleon and Gladstone were sun-myths<sup>3</sup>”

In the study of legend, as in textual criticism, we have to find out *what kind of change* is likely to have taken place and what is not, and to reconstruct accordingly. No method is infallible, and sometimes I have ventured to differ from Olrik's conclusions<sup>4</sup>. But Olrik was a very skilful critic, and one whose methods will always repay study

Yet he had been only a few months dead when one of his censors was beginning to talk about “his great torso *Danmarks Heltedigtning*” as a building which was falling to pieces like a house of cards, because its foundations were not as strong as they had been thought to be<sup>5</sup>

Fortunately we need not waste much time over *this* attack. Olrik had asserted (and the fact is hardly open to doubt) that the hero *Scyld, Skjold*, is not a historic personage, but an eponymous creation, a supposed progenitor invented to explain the name

<sup>1</sup> See Liestøl, *Islenske Ættesaga*, 1929, p. 101 (= *Origin of the Icelandic Family Sagas*, p. 105). An example which occurs to me is “the law of initial and terminal stress” emphasized by Schutte and Olrik. I admit that in drawing up any epic list there is a tendency that the first should be the one of greatest general importance, the last the one of greatest special interest. But this seems to me a *tendency* rather than a conscious law, as I ventured to argue long ago (*Widsith*, p. 256). For Olrik's reply see *Nogle Grundsætninger for Sagnforskning*, pp. 76, 77. The reader must judge.

<sup>2</sup> *Nogle Grundsætninger for Sagnforskning*, p. 75.

<sup>3</sup> Liestøl, *Islenske Ættesaga*, p. 75 (= *Origin of the Icelandic Family Sagas*, p. 76).

<sup>4</sup> e.g. above, p. 61, below, p. 430, note 1.

<sup>5</sup> J. Neuhaus, *Om Skjold* in *A f.N.F.* xxxv, 166 (1919).

*Scyldingas*, *Skjoldungar*<sup>1</sup>. Yet such eponymous traditions may be quite ancient, and matters of serious interest to the student of national legend. It is for having treated the *Scyld*-tradition thus seriously that Olrik is criticized.

Neuhaus asserts that the true form of the name in Old English is *Sceldwa* that therefore the correspondingly correct form should be a Scandinavian *Skjolde*, and that therefore the O E. *Scyld* and the O N *Skjold* are late and valueless inventions.

But, as I have tried to show above, a large number of these early heroes have names both in the weak and strong form<sup>2</sup> for example, *Hors* and *Horsa* are both excellently authenticated. And, whilst the weak form *Sceldwa* is authenticated by the pedigree as given in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* drawn up about 892, the form *Scyld* is guaranteed by the even more ancient pedigree given by Ethelwerd. For it is certain that Ethelwerd "acquired the genealogy from some unknown source in a more primitive form than that contained in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*<sup>3</sup>" And the form *Scyld* is further confirmed by *Beowulf*, which almost all scholars would regard as an earlier authority than the *Chronicle*<sup>4</sup>. Olrik is therefore absolutely right, for *Sceldwa* would not invalidate *Scyld*, and *Scyld* is in fact the better authenticated form. In any case the matter is a detail, which leaves the main structure of Olrik's great book untouched. What tumbles down like a house of cards is the critic's attack upon him. *Scyld* or *Skjold* is not a historic king, but a legendary figure of ancient Danish tradition, and Olrik's attempts to investigate the tradition are in no degree invalidated by the existence of an O E form *Sceldwa*.

Here then we may leave Mr Neuhaus, and his meditations upon *Scyld*, with nothing more than an expression of mild wonder how such an attack upon a great scholar came to be published in so distinguished a periodical as the *Arkiv*.

When we pass from the legendary *Scyld* to the stories of

<sup>1</sup> *Heroic Legends*, p. 440, see above, pp 77-8

<sup>2</sup> See above, pp 311, 312, where half a dozen examples are given, so too Latin has *Cato* but also *Catus*. *Rufus* and *Rufus*. Modern English *Black* (*blac*) but also *Blake* (*blaca*).

<sup>3</sup> See p 319 above, and Chadwick, *Origin of the English Nation*, p 272

<sup>4</sup> It occurs also in place names, *Scyldes treow*, *Scildes well*, although we cannot tell if the *Scyld* here mentioned is the hero of story.

Hrothgar and his house, we reach for Denmark that debatable ground between history and legend which we have just been considering for Sweden, and, as before, we find *Beowulf* our primary authority.

In this connection the work of Knut Liestøl in a parallel field is noteworthy. Liestøl has examined the oral traditions which were current among the peasantry of nineteenth-century Norway concerning the events of the preceding two or three centuries. These traditions are, of course, peculiarly valuable in the analogies they offer to the Icelandic sagas; but the analogy is also applicable, albeit not so directly, to *Beowulf*. Liestøl's comparisons give us something of a touchstone by which we can separate fictitious elements from historic fact, further, by his work, just as by the researches of Swedish archæologists, our belief is confirmed in the broad general accuracy with which historical events were handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation in Scandinavia<sup>1</sup> (and, in a somewhat similar way, in Anglo-Saxon England)

An investigator of northern legend who starts with a considerable belief in his material can now point to recent discovery and observation of fact in justification of his method.

And there are few fields in which discovery and observation of fact are more necessary, or the words of Francis Bacon more applicable, when he warns us against that "too great reverence of the mind and understanding of man" which has led scholars to neglect observation and to "tumble up and down in their own reason"

Olnik's reconstruction of early Danish history, of the stories of Hrothgar, Hrethric and Hrothulf, and the feud with Froda and Ingeld, was based upon the widest and most sympathetic study of the data, and therefore Olnik was able to see things which Mullenhoff had not been able to see, because Olnik did not

<sup>1</sup> This was shown in a very striking way in three lectures on "Modern Saga and the reliability of Oral Tradition" delivered by Liestøl in University College, London, in March, 1926. See also his *Upphavet til den Isländske Áttesaga*, Oslo (Aschehoug), 1929

allow theories and the "higher criticism" of *Beowulf* to stand in the way of his observation of facts.

Mullenhoff, for example, had regarded the crucial passages in which Hrethric is referred to (ll. 1189, *etc.*, 1836, *etc.*) as the work of his "Interpolator A." And so he dismissed Hrethric into the limbo of things "suspicious<sup>1</sup>." Yet the curious thing is that Mullenhoff knew that this name also existed in Scandinavian tradition<sup>2</sup>. But he allowed his theories of interpolation to prevent him from following up a clue which might have revealed to him, as it did later reveal to Olrik, a whole field of forgotten Danish history.

In the past ten years there have been two studies of this period of Scylding history—one by Boer and one by Wessén—in which conclusions fundamentally different from those of Olrik are maintained and it appears to me in both cases that Olrik is quite demonstrably right in the points which come under dispute. Boer, like Mullenhoff before him, seems to be prevented from giving its true value to all the evidence, because of his preconceived theories of criticism and interpretation. Wessén's reconstruction of early Danish history is dominated by a theory of wholesale "name-shift" and a theory of that kind must always be examined with the utmost caution. Thirty years ago, it was a mark of up-to-date Homeric scholarship to believe that the Argos where Agamemnon held sway was not the Peloponnesian Argos of history, but an obscure place of that name in Thessaly<sup>3</sup>. Where is that theory now?

It was in the year after this name-shift theory had been propounded for the Homeric Argos, that Rudolf Koegel produced his theory of name-shift<sup>4</sup>, by which he interpreted the Heathobearðan of *Beowulf* as having been, in historic fact, not the hereditary foes of the Danes but the Danes themselves; and the

<sup>1</sup> *Beowulf*, p. 28.

<sup>2</sup> p. 40.

<sup>3</sup> The Argos-theory seems to have been first put forward by Busolt in the second edition of his *Griechische Geschichte*, 1893 (I, 223), and was propounded in the same year by Beloch in his *Griechische Geschichte* (I, 157). It was adopted by Cauer (*Grundfrage der Homercritik*, 1895, p. 153) and introduced to English readers by Bury in his *History of Greece*, 1900. It was ejected from Bury's edition of 1913.

<sup>4</sup> *Geschichte der deutschen Literatur*, I, 1, p. 157.

people called Danes in *Beowulf*, Hrothgar's subjects, as having been, in historic fact, not the Danes, but the Danes' hereditary enemies. I did not mention this "name-shift" of Koegel in the earlier issue of this book, because I thought it was no longer taken seriously, but now that it is showing such vigorous life in the hands of Wessén, it must be considered below<sup>1</sup>.

*Prof Boer and his reconstruction of the Scylding feud*

The chief exponent, during the past generation, of the critical methods of which Mullenhoff and ten Brink were the earlier protagonists has been that great Dutch scholar whose loss we all deplore, Prof Boer. His recent views on *Beowulf* were given in two articles in periodicals in 1922 and 1923, the one dealing particularly with the Scylding feud<sup>2</sup>, the other with the *Beowulf* problem generally<sup>3</sup>. It is easiest to consider them both together, because what is at issue in each case, as Boer clearly saw, is a question of method.

Boer's essential thesis is that

"*Beowulf* is a literary production, with a history about which it is imperative to acquire a clear notion, *previous* to any attempt at comparing contents and subject matter with remote collateral sources."

Consequently, if we are considering (for example) the two Grendel fights, we must first concentrate on the internal evidence.

"The relation between the two Grendel fights should first be ascertained from internal evidence, *not till then* is there room for the question whether the older form of the narrative, *as revealed to us by criticism*, is traceable in a folk-tale."

Now there may be cases where the method advocated by Prof Boer is the right one, cases where internal criticism can show results so convincing that we are justified in dealing with them before passing on to any other considerations whatsoever. Sievers' demonstration that two different poems had been combined in the Anglo-Saxon *Genesis* was so overwhelming that (even if it had not been confirmed by subsequent discovery) it was bound to form the starting point of all later discussion. So

<sup>1</sup> pp 434-45

<sup>2</sup> *Studier over Skjoldungedigtningen* in the *Aarbøger for Nordisk Oldkyndighed og Historie*, III, 12, pp 133-266 (1922)

<sup>3</sup> *English Studies* (Amsterdam), v, 105-18

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid* p 106. The italics here and in the next quotation are mine.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid* p 107

with the old play of *Sir Thomas More*; the first fact to grasp is that the manuscript is extant in six different hands. Yet the *Beowulf* problem is surely different.

But Prof Boer held that we can, and should, acquire a clear notion of the origin and history of the poem *previous* to comparing remote collateral sources. It seems to me, on the other hand, that we ought to try to get light from the collateral sources, whether more or less remote, before we finally formulate our notion of the origin and history of *Beowulf*. Just as Richard Hooker argued that we must investigate "all the sources of light and truth with which man finds himself encompassed," so I believe that we must investigate, simultaneously, all the sources from which information about *Beowulf* can possibly be gathered. Only when we have brought to bear every possible means of knowledge, from literary and linguistic criticism, folk-lore, archæology, and history, whether cultural, political or religious, ought we to form our conclusions. This conviction must be my excuse if, in the previous edition of this book, I have, as Prof Boer complained, passed over his criticism of *Beowulf*, whilst repeatedly quoting him on minor points. I may perhaps repeat what I have said elsewhere in testimony of the respect which all students feel for Boer's work both on *Beowulf* and on the *Grettis saga* work which has earned him a permanent place in the history of the study of those two great pieces of literature.

"If many of us, rightly or wrongly, attach greater weight to Boer's elucidation of what he calls 'minor points' than to his 'criticism of the poem,' this is because the so-called 'minor points' are such as an acute brain and deep scholarship can elucidate whilst the 'criticism of the poem' seems to us an attempt to penetrate by conjecture into a stage of literary history which even the acutest brain and the deepest scholarship cannot fathom<sup>1</sup>."

There is something magnificent in the way in which Prof Boer has never been willing to admit defeat. He has remained

"Still nursing the unconquerable hope,"

believing that it is possible to pluck out the heart of the mystery of our poem by internal evidence the mind of the critic compelling the poem to give up its secret.

Yet it seems to me that it was this confidence in what the

<sup>1</sup> *English Studies* (Amsterdam), xi, 100



critic can learn from purely internal evidence which hid from Boer things which Olrik, with his less embarrassed gaze, could see quite clearly.

*Beowulf* tells us how, in the Danish royal hall, by the side of King Hrothgar sits Hrothulf, his mighty nephew, and twice in *Beowulf* and once in *Widsith* it is quite clearly implied that the friendship of uncle and nephew will not remain unbroken. Hrothulf in the end will clearly make a bid for the throne at the expense of his young cousins Hrethric and Hrothmund. Wealth-theow fears it, and tries "to shame Hrothulf into righteousness"<sup>1</sup>:

"I know," she says, "that my gracious Hrothulf will support the young princes in honour, if thou, King of the Scyldings, shouldst leave the world sooner than he. I ween that he will requite our children, if he remembers all that we two have done for his pleasure and honour, being yet a child"<sup>2</sup>."

Even if we had no more than this to go on, yet this, together with some knowledge of the history of times when the law of primogeniture was not binding<sup>3</sup>, would make it fairly clear that Hrothulf will put aside—and probably slay—his cousin, Hrethric<sup>4</sup>.

The *Bjarkamál* and later Scandinavian sources tell us quite definitely that Hrothulf (*Hrolfr*, *Roluo*) did slay a king named Hrethric (*Hrærekr*, *Roricus*). There is no doubt as to the correspondence of the names, and that being so, surely the Scandinavian evidence puts the fate of Hrethric beyond doubt.

Then we hear of Heoroweard. He is the son of Heorogar, the elder brother<sup>5</sup>, who had reigned<sup>6</sup> before Hrothgar. Yet Heoroweard has not come to the throne—presumably because at the time of his father's death he was only a lad. All we are told of Heoroweard is that Hrothgar gives to Beowulf—for Hygelac—the war-gear which Heoroweard's father, Heorogar, had once possessed. It certainly looks as if Heoroweard had been, in Olrik's words, "shghted"<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Kemp Malone, "Hrethric," *Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* XLII, 270.

<sup>2</sup> *Beowulf*, pp. 1180-7.

<sup>3</sup> Compare Charles Kingsley in *Hereward the Wake*, chapter ix, on the tragedies of the house of Baldwin of Flanders and "many another royal house."

<sup>4</sup> Hrethric is mentioned first, and is therefore presumably older than his brother Hrothmund.

<sup>5</sup> l. 468.

<sup>6</sup> l. 2158.

<sup>7</sup> Olrik, *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, p. 27.

Heoroweard might reasonably be expected to make *his* bid for the throne. And in the *Bjarkamál* we are definitely told that Hrothulf, after having slain King Hrethric (*Hrærekr*, *Roricus*), was himself slain by Heoroweard (*Hjorvardr*, *Huarwarus*), who seized the throne from him.

This is the way in which, following the hints of various earlier scholars, Olrik reconstructed the story. And it is really not theory at all it is a putting together of two different traditions, the English and the Scandinavian. They interlock, dovetail into one another, and make a connected whole which, though it leaves details obscure, seems in its main outlines established beyond doubt. The Scandinavian stories help us to understand the hints in *Beowulf*. *Beowulf* shows the real bearing upon each other of the *dissecta membra* of Scandinavian tradition.

But Boer does not read the story so. He puts an interpretation upon two passages in *Beowulf* which, if it be correct, cannot be harmonized with the Scandinavian account at all. For, as he interprets these passages, Hrethric is slain by the Heathobearðan at the tragic wedding of Freawaru and Ingeld, Heoroweard is argued to have been dead at an earlier stage still, so neither of them can have played any part in the domestic feud: Hrothulf cannot have killed Hrethric, nor Heoroweard have killed Hrothulf. That being so, the Scandinavian account of these matters, Boer holds, must be altogether rejected, there only remains what *Beowulf* tells us of the feud between Hrothgar and Hrothulf so, according to Boer, we must suppose that, in a struggle at Heorot, Hrothgar and Hrothulf fall as each other's opponents.

Everything turns upon the correctness of Boer's interpretation of two passages. If that interpretation were inevitable, then we might perhaps be driven to dismiss all the Scandinavian versions as worthless but only an *inevitable* interpretation would justify such a desperate treatment of our Scandinavian evidence.

The young Danish warrior who is slain at the wedding of Freawaru and Ingeld is spoken of as *þāra banena byre nāt-hwylces*, "the son of one or other of the slaughtering Danes" Boer's argument is that we *must* suppose this son of some anonymous Dane to be the son of Hrothgar. But this interpretation,

though it seemed self-evident to Boer, is not a necessary one; and it does not seem to me to be even a reasonable one, since it does not agree with the forebodings of Wealhtheow for it is clearly from Hrothulf, not from the Heathobeardan, that she anticipates danger for her sons. Anyway, it is assuredly not necessary.

Boer argues in the second place that Heoroweard must have been dead when Beowulf visits Heorot, that, in fact, he must have predeceased his father Heorogar, for he did not receive his father's arms, and if he had been alive he would have been his father's natural heir. Of course he is his father's natural heir but a natural heir does not always get all that he expects. And we are told that Heorogar would not (*ne wolde*) leave this heirloom to his son, although he loved him well (*þēah he him hold wære*). If Heoroweard had been already dead, there would have been no occasion for such comment, at most it might have been said that it was not granted to the father to leave his arms to his much loved son. But to say that the father "would not, though he loved his son" implies clearly that the son was alive, and therefore *might* have received the legacy, though he did not.

Heoroweard did not inherit his father's arms, equally he did not inherit his father's throne—presumably because he was too young at the time. Hrothgar was himself young then<sup>1</sup>, and the nephew of a man who is himself young is likely to be a mere lad. Therefore Heorogar, though he loves his son, leaves the armour to his brother, Hrothgar, upon whom the task of defending the realm will fall, rather than to a son who is too young to use the weapons. All that is natural. But when Beowulf visits Heorot, many years later, Hrothgar is too old to fight<sup>2</sup>. Heoroweard now might perhaps hope to receive his father's arms. But, if Hrothgar gives the ancestral royal battle weeds to "the valiant Heoroweard<sup>3</sup>," will not that be interpreted to mean that Hrothgar's nephew, rather than his young son, is the man marked out to defend the realm after his day? So Hrothgar gives the arms to Beowulf to give to Hygelac. Beowulf does so. And then Beowulf's conduct is pointedly contrasted with that of the kinsman

<sup>1</sup> *Beowulf*, l. 466

<sup>2</sup> ll 1885-7

<sup>3</sup> *hwatum Heorowearde*, l. 2161.

who "weaves cunning snares for the other with secret craft" What can this allusion mean, if there be not some reference to Heoroweard and *his* relation to *his* kinsfolk?

The poem of *Beowulf* is separated by more than a century, and in all probability by some two centuries, from the events it narrates. If Heoroweard had died before his father Heorogar, who himself dies whilst his brother Hrothgar is young, how would he come to be remembered at all? A boy must have done or suffered something, if his memory is to live in heroic song throughout the centuries. Boer's explanation is that the *name* was remembered and then, after many centuries, a *deed*—the slaying of Hrothulf—was in Scandinavian tradition wrongly attached to the name<sup>1</sup>.

But is this the way things actually work out?

It is necessary to go into this, because Boer's standing as a philologist and a student of legend entitles whatever he writes to respectful examination. He makes a study of the field covered by Olrik, and assures us that Olrik's book, despite the intuition and scholarship of its writer, "from the point of view of criticism suffers from essential defects, and therefore its results are in great part very doubtful." Such an indictment must be taken seriously.

It is an invidious thing to judge between two eminent scholars, both of whom have passed away. But Boer has insisted upon such comparison, by attacking Olrik's method. Surely, then, the verdict must be that Olrik's method is the right one. Olrik compares all the accounts, and things are found to fall into their place. There is a minimum of mere theorizing rather the seeing eye of the critic (his intuition, as Boer rightly calls it) marshals each bit of evidence in its right place, till we wonder that we could not see it all for ourselves. Against this, Boer erects his method of internal criticism, of an interpretation of certain passages in *Beowulf* which seems to him convincing, then he dismisses the Scandinavian evidence because it does not agree with this interpretation. But *Beowulf* is a difficult and ambiguous poem. The interpretation which seems to Boer cer-

<sup>1</sup> "Hans navn var bevaret og kunde altså bruges den mand, der bar dette navn, passede altså netop til at indtage Hroars plads i en fortælling om en familiestrid." Boer, *Aarbøger*, as above, p. 208.

tainly right will seem to others doubtful. To me, as I have said, it seems, on internal evidence *alone*, certainly wrong. How can we reject the whole of the Scandinavian tradition because it does not harmonize with an interpretation in itself so highly problematical?

### *Heathobeardan and Heruh*

Readers of Olnk's great book will remember how he elucidates the feud between the Danes and the Heathobeardan. First come the wars of the Heathobard king, Froda, against the Danes, who were flourishing under Healfdene "the high," "the old," and his son Hrothgar, the founder of Heorot. Froda is slain by the Danes<sup>1</sup>. To compose the feud, Hrothgar gives his daughter Freawaru in marriage to Froda's son, Ingeld. But the peace is not to last. So much we learn from *Beowulf*. *Widsith* tells us how Hrothgar and his nephew Hrothulf repulsed Ingeld's attack and hewed down the Heathobeardan at Heorot. From the ancient *Bjarkamál*, preserved by Saxo Grammaticus, we learn how Agnar, son of Ingeld, was slain by Bothvar Bjarki, Bjarki being a champion in the service of the Danish king Rolf Kraki [Hrothulf].

These events, then, cover three generations<sup>2</sup>, and they can be dated.

<sup>1</sup> See Olnk, *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, pp 304-10. Olnk thinks that *Beowulf* implies that Healfdene slew Froda. But all that we can gather from *Beowulf* is that Froda fell in battle against the Danes. *Beowulf* does not tell us whether Healfdene slew him, or whether he was slain by the descendants and successors of Healfdene, taking vengeance for their predecessor. Saxo's Danish account makes Healfdene slay Froda, but the Old Norse accounts make Froda slay Healfdene, and this fits in best with the (admittedly inconclusive) data of *Beowulf*. In *Beowulf* Hrothgar is very old, and Hrothulf, the grandson of Healfdene, already a champion of renown. Nevertheless, Ingeld is a youth who has not yet taken vengeance for Froda. Chronologically, this is quite reasonable, if the slaying of Froda was an act of Hrothgar's manhood (perhaps with his young nephew Hrothulf helping), it would be less reasonable if the slaying were an act of an earlier generation, of Hrothulf's grandfather Healfdene. The *Quern Song* is often quoted as supporting this view, but it is only by altering the text that any such interpretation can be arrived at. For an interpretation of the text as it stands, see Kemp Malone, *Literary History of Hamlet*, I, 196, *A f N.F.* XLII, 234 etc., *Acta Phil. Scand.* IV, 270.

<sup>2</sup> Yet there are chronological difficulties. It is not clear how Ingeld can have had a son old enough to be slain in combat by Bjarki, especially as the fight is thought of as at the beginning of Bjarki's career as a warrior—the combat from which he gets his nickname of Bothvar-Bjarki, "Battle-Bjarki." See Herrmann, *Erläuterungen zu Saxo Grammaticus*, 1922, II, 169. For a full discussion of the whole problem of Ingeld and Agnar, by Prof. Kemp Malone, see *Modern Philology*, XXVII, 257-76.

For Ingeld's attack on Heorot takes place not very long after Beowulf's visit. So does Hygelac's attack on Friesland. We may date both about 520. On this basis we may roughly place Hrothgar's reign in the first quarter of the sixth century, Hrothulf's in the second quarter<sup>1</sup>.

Now it is just during the glorious reign of Hrothgar and his nephew Hrothulf that we first find the name of the Danes mentioned by Latin and Greek writers, and, as in *Beowulf*, we hear of them as conquerors. Jordanes, writing about the year 550, tells us that the Danes drove the Heruli from their homes—the tallest of all the people of "Scandia," taller even than the tall Swedes<sup>2</sup>. There is little doubt that Jordanes got his information from the lost *History* of Cassiodorus, which was finished before 533. Before that date, then, the Danes had expelled the Heruli from whatever part of "Scandia" this somewhat mysterious people had once occupied.

Can we get much further back in Danish history than Hrothgar and the early sixth century? Well, the Heruli at any rate had been known to writers within the Roman Empire for two centuries and a half. Some time before 512 they had a powerful kingdom near the Danube in the modern Hungary or the more modern Czecho-Slovakia. But since the latter half of the third century they had been raiding, sometimes East, sometimes West, and serving as mercenaries in the Roman armies.

Scholars have been tempted to connect the driving out of the Heruli by the Danes from their home in the North with the appearance of the Heruli on the borders of the Roman Empire. In that case this first act in the recorded history of the Danes must have taken place about 250, and can have no connection with Hrothgar's struggles with the Heathobeardan mentioned in *Beowulf*, for these must have happened two centuries and a half later.

<sup>1</sup> All very approximate, but confirmed by Scandinavian traditions which make Athils (Eadgils) contemporary with Rolf (Hrothulf). Heusler (*Archiv*, cxxiv, 9-14) makes Healfdene die A.D. 495, Hrothgar A.D. 520. But I place Hygelac's death, the date upon which all turns, at least five years later than Heusler does, and consequently date Hrothgar's reign 500-525.

<sup>2</sup> *Suetidi, cogniti in hac gente reliquis corpore eminentiores, quamvis et Dani, ex ipsorum stirpe progressi, Herulos propriis sedibus expulerunt, qui inter omnes Scandiae nationes nomen sibi ob nimia proceritate affectant praecipuum.* *Getica*, ed. Mommsen, p. 59.

Now the Danes, when we hear of them at the beginning of the sixth century, whether under Hrothgar in *Beowulf*, or by casual mention in Latin or Byzantine historians, are a mighty race. Yet, among the numerous tribes which Tacitus and Ptolemy<sup>1</sup> had recorded centuries earlier, the Danes are not to be found. Hence, it has been supposed that the Danes were originally a small people who had grown to greatness by absorbing other tribes. Who the Danes originally were, we do not know. Jordanes, as we have seen, speaks of the Suetidi, and then says that the Danes were *ex ipsorum stirpe progressi*. This has been taken to mean that the Danes started from Sweden (that is, the original Sweden around the Malar district), and emigrated to the land known later as Denmark. Jordanes' words need not bear that interpretation, but, on the other hand, from what Tacitus tells us of the Swedes, we may well believe they had a navy capable of such an expedition. Since we are told that the Danes drove out the Heruli, it has been supposed that these Heruli were the original inhabitants of Denmark. But if the Danes were a mere raiding offshoot of the Swedes, it has been further argued that they were relatively few, and that whilst they drove out many of the Heruli, they also absorbed many. The bulk, then, of the Danes of history, it has been supposed, may have been of Herulian blood.

All this has been persuasively urged. But we must never forget that it is conjecture built on conjecture. Besides, ten years ago Olrik pointed out that the idea of the Danes as immigrants from Sweden, who had driven out the original inhabitants of Denmark, rested upon a misinterpretation of Jordanes' expression, which "does not contain a piece of historic or geographic, but only ethnographic information"<sup>2</sup>. And an examination of the other places where Jordanes uses the word *stirps* confirms this: apparently all that Jordanes really says is that the Danes came of the same stock as the Swedes—not necessarily that they were immigrants from Sweden<sup>3</sup>, but that they were, like the Swedes, Scandinavians.

<sup>1</sup> Some have supposed that "Daukiones" in Ptolemy is a corruption of the Danish name. But such a supposition is very perilous.

<sup>2</sup> *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, p. 34.

<sup>3</sup> See also on this a review by Zachrisson, *Studia Neophilologica*, I, 87-8. And it is even disputed whether *Suetidi* in Jordanes does mean the Swedes at all. See Kemp Malone, *Literary History of Hamlet*, I, 11.

Those however who would make Jordanes' words mean more than this, have found some support in ancient legend, and some support in archæology. We have really so little information that we cannot dogmatize. We can only note that Olrik is sure that the written sources give us no basis "indicating the home of the Danes to have been anywhere but where we find it in historic times," that is to say, in Denmark. Meantime Swedish historians not less weighty believe the Danes to have been conquerors from Sweden, an aristocracy who absorbed the originally Herulian majority<sup>1</sup>. Into such a Dano-Swedish discussion it were indecent for an Englishman to intrude, especially as it is a side issue, and the English student of *Beowulf* is not concerned with the historic Denmark till about the year 500. To what extent one tribe may have driven out or absorbed another tribe, closely akin in blood and speech, from or in the present Denmark, in the third and fourth centuries of our era, who can say? Only archæology can throw any new light upon the problem, if even that can, and both sides claim the support of archæology for their contentions. At any rate, Denmark in the third and fourth centuries of our era lies outside the ken of the *Beowulf* scholar. He has troubles enough of his own.

But there is, of course, a quite different interpretation which can be put upon Jordanes' words. The Heruli whom we hear of in Europe from the third to the fifth century need not have been forcibly expelled from their old home, for they may have been volunteer adventurers whom the love of wandering and plunder had drawn from their ancient seats. It may well have been much later, say about 500, a few decades before Cassiodorus and Jordanes wrote, that the expulsion of the Heruli, of which Jordanes speaks, took place. This would be quite reasonable: the voluntary emigration of fighting men to the borders of the Roman Empire would have weakened the Heruli, and the last stay-at-homes may not have been driven out by the increasing power of the Danes till somewhere about 500. In support of that,

<sup>1</sup> The subject is very fully and carefully worked out by B. Nerman in *Fornvannen*, 1922, pp. 129-40, *Harstamma danerna från Svealand*. See also H. Schuck, *Svenska folkets historia*, I, 1, p. 107.



we have a line of Sidonius who, writing soon after 475, can still describe a Heruhan as

"*imos Oceani colens recessus*"

If we interpret Jordanes' words in that way, they would represent the Danes in conflict with the Heruli about the same time that *Beowulf* represents them in conflict with the Heathobeardan. Naturally, therefore, Mullenhoff and others have identified the Heruli with the Heathobeardan of *Beowulf*. But the identification is not inevitable, for, as *Beowulf* reminds us<sup>1</sup>, the Danes in their rise to power had come into conflict with many tribes (*monegum mægþum*). Olrik rejected the identification altogether, but again the question is not a vital one.

*Wessén on the Peoples of "Beowulf"*

But a recent publication of Prof. Wessén<sup>2</sup> has revived the old controversy in a way which does demand the attention of students of *Beowulf*. For Wessén's position is revolutionary, and strikes at the root, not only of Olrik's results, but of his methods. Wessén accepts, as if it were ascertained fact, the inference that the Danes started from Sweden, made a military expedition to Denmark, and absorbed the Heruli whom they found there. But he places all this, not c. 250, but c. 500-550. Now, so long as we place these rather hypothetical events in the third century, they need not disturb the equanimity either of the *Beowulf* student, or of the reader of Olrik's great book. But it is another matter when they are put in the sixth century, because they will not harmonize with the known data of that century. For *Beowulf* represents Hrothgar as ruling a great Danish kingdom from his capital at Heorot at a period shortly before Hygelac's expedition. Hygelac's expedition was about 520. And Hrothgar is at the end of a long<sup>3</sup> and glorious reign. He must have begun to rule the Danes before the date at which Wessén makes the Danes arrive in Denmark. Further, according to *Beowulf*, Hroth-

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 24.

<sup>2</sup> *De Nordiska Folkstammarna i Beowulf*, Stockholm, 1927 (*Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar*, 36, 2).

<sup>3</sup> Hrothgar is represented as aged yet he was young when he began to reign (*Beowulf*, l. 466).

gar has had predecessors upon his Danish throne—some generations of them have been building up the Danish realm.

And this picture is confirmed by the Scandinavian stories

Wessén is accordingly compelled to fall back on the theory of a "name-shift." His theory assumes that the people called "Danes" in *Beowulf*, the Scyldings, with their kings Hrothgar and Hrothulf, are really not Danes, but the indigenous Heruli, the foes of the Danes that *Beowulf* and all the Old Norse and Danish records have made a mistake. Further, the theory assumes that the Heathobeardan are not the hereditary enemies of the Danes, but the Danes themselves that *Beowulf* has simply turned things into the reverse of what they really were.

This summary, of course, does no justice to the ingenuity, plausibility and persuasiveness of Prof Wessén's arguments, or the learning with which he marshals his material. Wessén has already earned himself a distinguished name by his researches into Northern history and tradition. His restatement of early Danish history has been accepted, alike in Germany, America and England, if not with conviction, at any rate without marked dissent, or rather perhaps with that languid neutrality which Bishop Gore deplotes in another field the feeling that "everything is uncertain, but that in the meantime all theories are interesting."

Yet it seems to me to be only another example of what Prof Frederick Tupper has christened "philological legend," the glamour of the learned and elaborate argument, based upon—just nothing. "The Danes conquered and absorbed the Heruli." The absorbent power of Danes is the thing that seems to have burnt itself into the consciousness of scholars, also the smallness of their numbers<sup>1</sup>, so that they were outnumbered by those whom they absorbed. If we put this in the third century, it lies beyond our ken we can neither affirm it nor deny it. And so, because we cannot deny it, it becomes a fixed dogma. Then Wessén

<sup>1</sup> "En relativt fåtalig krigarstam," Wessén, p. 28, "En jämförelsevis fåtalig krigareskara," Nerman, *Fornvannen*, 1922, p. 140, "Ett jämförelsevis fåtaligt krigarfolje," Schuck, *Svenska folkets historia*, 1914, i, 1, p. 107, "Die zuruckbleibenden Herulen verschmelzen mit den herrschenden Danen, die wahrscheinlich nur eine Minorität gebildet haben, und nehmen deren Namen an," Nerman, *Die Herkunft der Germanen*, 1924, Stockholm (Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien's Handlingar, 34, 5).

intrudes it into the sixth century, where, however, it will not harmonize with the known data. But our dogma has by now become far too firm to be shaken. So Wessén asks us to reject the known data instead. That the Danes were few in number, but absorbent, and above all absorbent of Heruli, is the one fixed doctrine to which everything else must at all costs conform.

And yet there is no evidence for any such thing. All we know is that, at some date certainly before 552, probably before 533, possibly much before, the Danes *had driven the Heruli from their seats*, and that the Heruli are, in fact, found wandering in many places in Europe.

Obviously, the Danes could not have expelled the Heruli unless they had at one time been neighbours, and, since it is likely that the Danes occupied the territory of the people they expelled, the Heruli are likely to have dwelt in some part of what later became Denmark. But Wessén assumes that the Heruli occupied almost all of Denmark—Scani, the Danish islands and the greater part of Jutland, *and that they remained there*, and that therefore the Scylding kings, Hrothgar and Hrothulf, must have been, as a matter of history, Herulian. Not till about the year 500, he assumes, did the real Danes first come from Sweden to Denmark, as invaders. During the next fifty years (500–550) these real Danes (wrongly called in *Beowulf* "Heathobeardan") made themselves masters of the whole kingdom formerly ruled by the Scylding dynasty of Hrothgar and Hrothulf (really Heruli, albeit mistakenly called Danes in *Beowulf* and everywhere else). But the Danish conquerors were, he believes, a small minority. (This follows, I suppose, from their being thought of as rovers who had come in a fleet from the Malar district of Sweden, and this in its turn rests, as we have seen, upon a more than doubtful interpretation of Jordanes. But it is essential to Wessén's argument that the Danes must have been much outnumbered by the Heruli whom they had overcome.) Furthermore, Wessén assures us, the Heruli had a higher culture which, together with their preponderance in numbers, enabled them to impose their traditions about the glories of the Scylding race, and of the reigns of Hrothgar and Hrothulf, upon their Danish conquerors. Yet these were the

masters, and after them the people and the kingdom took the name of Danes, whilst the name of the Heruli disappears from history, from popular tradition, and from heroic poetry.

Now why should the Heruli have had a higher culture than the Danes? The Heruli had the reputation of being the most savage of the Germanic tribes known to Procopius—and he had reason to know a good deal about them. The Heruli had been wont, he tells us, to offer human sacrifices, to kill off their sick and aged, to compel their widows to commit suicide: their morals were as filthy as their manners. And this barbarism extended to material things: at a time when the Germanic warrior was coming to rejoice in helm and byrnie, the Heruli went into battle naked, save for a loin cloth. Yet, in the islands which Wessén would people with these barbarians, there is evidence for a high culture: in Funen the moss-finds of Kragehul and Vimose, and in Zealand the finds of the Himlingøje period. The material civilization shown by these finds seemed to Orlík inconsistent with the belief that the savage Heruli could have been dwelling there at the date to which the finds belong.<sup>1</sup> Whether we accept Orlík's argument or not, it should surely warn us against assuming that the Heruli possessed a *higher* culture than their neighbours, the Danes.

Now it is proverbially difficult to prove a negative, especially in a period and a place so obscure as the Denmark of the early sixth century. But it so happens that we have means of refuting this assumption of a Herulian nation in the early sixth century in the present Denmark, superior in numbers and culture to their Danish neighbours: for we happen to have independent evidence showing that at the beginning of the sixth century, when Hrothgar must have been reigning, there *was* no Herulian nation left in Denmark. Scattered as the Heruli had been, their main body at this date formed, as we have seen, a considerable kingdom by the Danube.<sup>2</sup> There they were crushed, and their king

<sup>1</sup> *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, pp. 31–41.

<sup>2</sup> It is generally held that there was another Herulian kingdom in the Netherlands, but this is not so well authenticated. A letter was addressed by Theodoric the Great to the king of the Heruli, Theodoric's object was to gain support against Chlodoweg the Frank, and it was probably also with this aim that Theodoric gave the king of the Heruli gifts of weapons and adopted him as his son (much as Hrothgar does Beowulf). Now, geographically, such an alliance

slain, by the Longobards. One Herulian remnant took refuge within the Roman Empire, another set out to find a home in the far north. The almost contemporary Byzantine historian, Procopius, gives us a full account of their journey. Leaving the Danube they traversed all the Slavonic tribes, then a great desert, then the Warni, then passed the tribes of the Danes, receiving no hurt from them. Then they took shipping and crossed over to Thule [i.e. the Scandinavian peninsula], where they settled by the side of a very mighty tribe—the Gauti [the Gautar, the *Ġēatas* of *Beowulf*]. All this happened about 512 [that is to say, when Hrothgar was ruling in Heorot].

So, the Byzantine historian gives us the same geography which *Beowulf* does. Danes on one side, Gautar on the other, and a sea voyage in between. The mention of “tribes of the Danes” seems to point to the Danes as a numerous confederation—compare the East Danes, West Danes, North Danes and South Danes of *Beowulf*.

And so the theory that the Danes had arrived in South Jutland ten or a dozen years before, a relatively small band of warriors coming in a pirate fleet from the Malar district of Sweden, and that except for this settlement all modern Denmark

against Chlodoweg best suits the Netherlandish Heruli, if such a kingdom existed yet many have believed that it is the king of the Danubian Heruli who is addressed. Theodoric's letter was written soon before 507, the Herulian kingdom on the Danube was destroyed by the Longobards some years before 512. Wessén's objection that, if the letter had been addressed to the Danubian monarch, Theodoric would have avenged the death of his adopted son by a war against the Longobards is hardly valid. Theodoric's object was to form an anti-Frankish coalition: it failed, and from 507, for some years, Theodoric was consequently involved in critical wars against the Franks and Burgundians. Theodoric was a practical man, and might, I suspect, have said that if his Herulian “son,” instead of helping his “father” against the Franks with his Herulian light-armed mercenaries, chose to get involved in a quarrel of his own with the Longobards, that was his business.

The fullest summary of our information about the Heruli is still that of Zeuss (*Die Deutschen*, 1837, pp. 476–84). English readers will get a good idea of their activities from Hodgkin, *Italy and her Invaders*, especially III, 206, 354 etc., v, 103–16. For the West Heruli see Pallmann, *Geschichte der Völkerwanderung*, II, 1864, 67–76. Seelmann, *Das Norddeutsche Herulerreich*, *Jahrb. d. Vereins f. Niederr. Sprachforschung*, 1886, 53–8, argues (very doubtfully) for a Herulian kingdom in Thuringia. See also Schmidt, *Geschichte der deutschen Stämme*, 1905, I, 268 etc., 312 etc., 333–49; Chadwick, *Origin of the English Nation*, 1907, especially p. 139; Bremer in *Pauls Grdr.* (2), III, 833–6; Much in *Hoops Reallexikon*, II, 517–9; G. Schütte, *Vor Folkgruppe, Gotthod*, II (English translation in the press). Quite recently, in answer to the conjectures of O. v. Friesen (*Uppsala Årsskrift*, 1924) Schmidt has summarized the evidence once more, *Die Heruler*, in *P.B.B.* LI, 103–7 (1927).

was still in the hands of the original Herulian inhabitants, can no more be harmonized with the contemporary account of Procopius than it can with the account of *Beowulf*. And here Procopius is likely to be accurate. He had played with the idea of visiting "Thule" himself, so was likely to have noted the itinerary carefully. And the route remained open. The Heruli within the Roman Empire, whom Procopius knew, kept up some kind of communication with their kinsmen who had settled in Scandinavia near the Gautar. we hear of a later embassy, and of an emissary who died *in the land of the Danes* on the way from the Scandinavian Heruli to their southern kinsfolk. How can this fit with the theory that there was a great Herulian people, more numerous and civilized than the Danes, situated in the present Denmark, on the very route which the Herulian envoys must travel on their way between that section of their nation which had settled in the Roman Empire and that section which had settled by the side of the Gautar, in the modern Sweden?

*The "name-shift," and its place in the study of legend*

Of course, there is such a thing as name-shift in legend. Many instances can be quoted in which one place has undoubtedly been mistaken for another of the same name. we have seen how Ottar's connection with Vendel in Sweden came to be forgotten, and shifted to a connection with Vendel in Jutland. Or a hero may change his nationality: one version makes Offa a king in England, another king of Denmark.

Nevertheless, of all theories which interfere with our appreciation of the facts, the name-shift theory is one of the most insidious. Theories which run directly counter to the evidence do at least give us warning by their very violence: it is as if a player should claim victory at chess by sweeping the pieces from the board. But the danger of the 'name-shift' theory is greater: it amounts to rearranging the pieces on the board, and then proceeding with the game—and the danger is that this process appears to be less violent than the other, whereas really it is *not*.

The game cannot be played under these conditions, as Earl Ulf had the courage to inform King Canute, even at the cost of his life.

Where there are a number of quite contradictory versions of a tale, and where the assumption of a name-shift in the later and more corrupt versions brings order out of chaos, the possibility of such name-shift must be carefully considered. But we must never base an argument on the assumption that all our authorities mean the reverse of what they say. Obviously, where the documents differ, we must weigh one against another. the first thing is to find out on what they agree. To quote Olrik again

"The principle by which we must unswervingly abide is that we must first of all be sure of what is common to all traditions<sup>1</sup>."

It sounds too obvious to need stating. But Wessén's theory asks us to believe that the English, the Danish, and the Old Norse accounts all made the same mistake in thinking that Hrothgar and Hrothulf ruled over the Danes, when they really ruled over the Heruli, a tribe warring on the Danes, and that a parallel mistake had earlier been made by the Latin and Greek historians who were actually living whilst Hrothgar and Hrothulf were reigning. (For the historian of the Byzantine Empire knows only of Danes in Denmark, and nothing of Heruli, and the historian of the Goths asserts that the Danes had driven the Heruli out, which is not consistent with the supposition that they were there all the time, in preponderating numbers, and enjoying a higher civilization.)

If we treat our authorities like that, are we not sawing off the very branch on which we sit, and in fact making all serious study impossible? For this "new orientation"—whatever the learning with which it is put forward—compels us to dismiss the evidence of all our documents and to substitute conjectures (themselves of the most perilous kind) built upon the legend that the Danes were really Heruli upon whom a small conquering caste had imposed the Danish name—a legend which my researches so far have not enabled me to trace back further than the early years of the twentieth century.

Against the attitude which holds "that everything is uncertain, but that in the meanwhile all theories are interesting," I would submit that there is such a thing as the study of legend, and that such study is based upon the belief that, though legend

<sup>1</sup> *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, p. 381.

changes, *everything* is not uncertain—that there *are* some stable elements; if there were not, we should have nothing solid to work on. We have got to discriminate.

In Olrik's words

"The only possible way to arrive at a clear conception is to plunge down into the multitude of traditions and the chaos of contradictions, in order to evolve from them the law of change that determines the growth of legends, that is, to find which elements change, and which remain<sup>1</sup>."

Undoubtedly tradition does, in the course of ages, undergo very great alterations, and when a historian like Saxo, after the lapse of six or eight centuries, tries to weave scattered traditions into one consistent whole, the strangest results will ensue. Ermanaric the Goth and Offa the Angle appear as Danish kings, so do Ingeld and Froda. But this does not mean that we can assume any change we like, taking place in any way we like, at any time we like. Still less does it mean that we can, without ground, dismiss as error statements upon which all our extant authorities *do* agree.

For, as a story branches off among many different tribes possessing a kindred speech and a kindred taste for heroic lays, that story will take different forms in different lands. One poet, who knows the story well, may compose a lay in which many things are stated only in an allusive way; his audience also know the story, and he has no need to be more explicit. In later days, or in another land, his lay may be repeated by heart. The background of knowledge may be no longer there, yet the lay may be popular, and people may be interested in its allusions, although they misunderstand them, and in order to account for them a new turn may be given to the old story<sup>2</sup>. But, amid all these many varying and divergent versions, that which is common to all is not lightly to be set aside.

And even when we have two divergent accounts, there are principles to guide us. Quarrels and battles arose out of the political clash of the different nations of the time of the Migrations. But in that rapidly changing age these political relations

<sup>1</sup> *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Olrik, *Danmarks Heltedigtning*, I, 18.



shifted, lost their meaning, and were forgotten: the human interest remained.

The story of Offa illustrates one of the "laws of change which determine the growth of legends." In *Widsith* the young English prince Offa defends his kingdom—the continental Angel—at the river Eider against the attack of another tribe from the South. Some eight centuries after that historic event, the story was still remembered in the midland shires of England. But continental Angel and its surroundings had by this time been forgotten. Consequently Offa is thought of as an English prince, living in England: his foes are thought of as domestic usurpers. At the same period the story was remembered in Denmark, but the frontier which Offa defended against the foes of those primitive English had in the meantime become the southern frontier of Denmark. This is reflected in the story, and Offa is represented as a Danish prince, defending his right against Saxon aggressors.

But the story of the young prince remains essentially the same, so far as the individual hero goes. The politics change.

Now one of the principles pointed out in Olrik's great book is precisely this: the earlier accounts represent the struggles of the time of the Migrations as being what they actually were—struggles between peoples. In later versions this political aspect is dimmed: the story is one of struggles between individuals, the nations are forgotten and confused.

It is precisely on this ground that Olrik finds *Beowulf* and *Widsith* trustworthy.

"As a ground for our belief in the trustworthiness of the accounts given in *Beowulf* and *Widsith*, we must place first and foremost the character of these accounts. The political events are depicted with all the variety of real life: the story has not yet been re-arranged for the special glorification of a few favourite heroic figures. Nations are depicted as struggling, whereas a freer poetic version would have given us individual heroes!"

Thus the feud between Danes and Heathobearna is represented as a national business. Ingeld is powerless: the hatreds nursed by his tribe carry him away despite himself.

"þý ic Heaðobearna hýlde ne telge  
dryht-sibbe dæl Denum unfæcne  
fræond-scepe fæstne."

<sup>1</sup> *Danmarks Heltedigtning*, I, 18.

Now Wessén says very much the same thing as Olrik: "National contests are altered in later legend to family quarrels, struggles between peoples into struggles between individual chiefs or heroes<sup>1</sup>" Accordingly, and quite rightly, Wessén rejects the much later Scandinavian version which makes the struggle of Froda and Healfdene into a private quarrel between two rival brothers of the same royal family. He accepts the historical, political character of the events as depicted in *Beowulf*.

But, if we accept the historical character of the story, as we get it in *Beowulf*, we have no right at the same time to assume that kind of unhistorical confusion as to the nationality of the hero which we sometimes find, after the lapse of very many centuries, in a version of a story where all question of nationality has ceased to interest those who tell the story, and where they are concerned with the individual hero only.

The parallels which Wessén gives for shifting of nationality in legend do not seem to me to justify his treatment of *Beowulf*. On the contrary, they seem to mark it as unjustifiable. According to *Beowulf*, Eadgils is put on the throne of Sweden by the help of the Geatas; much later, Scandinavian tradition, as Wessén points out, makes Eadgils triumph by the help of the Danes<sup>2</sup>. But this offers no parallel—for it is precisely in a point where *Beowulf* and Scandinavian tradition agree—that Hrothgar and Hrothulf are Danish kings—that Wessén proposes to put their joint evidence aside. The Finn-Episode in *Beowulf* seems to represent Hengest as the foe of the Jutes; yet far from being the foe of the Jutes, he was in reality, argues Wessén, the historic Hengest, the leader of the Jutes who conquered Kent<sup>3</sup>. But this is very doubtful. True, many scholars are in favour of the identity of the two Hengests—Chadwick for example. But Chadwick is equally convinced that the Finn-Episode in *Beowulf*, far from representing Hengest as the foe of the Jutes, represents him as a member of that tribe<sup>4</sup>. And even if such a shifting in tradition had taken place, it would afford no parallel to Wessén's

<sup>1</sup> *De Nordsiska Folkstammarna*, p. 28.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 32.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 33.

<sup>4</sup> *Origin of the English Nation*, 1907, p. 53, 1924, p. 49.

theory. For it is found in the Episode in *Beowulf* only, not in the *Finnburg Fragment*. Not only may one individual version of a story play tricks with the nationality of one individual hero, but, for the matter of that, one individual himself may change sides. Among the first things we hear about the historic Hengest is that he was an exile<sup>1</sup> and an exile, or refugee, a Coriolanus or a Robert Bruce, may lead men of a nation against which earlier he has fought. A parallel to Wessén's assumptions regarding the Danes would be, if we had two versions of the Finn story in England, and a considerable number in Friesland, and all these versions agreed *quite consistently* in reversing the nationality of the Frisians and all their champions, during a period of quarrel lasting through more than a generation.

*Beowulf*, according to the commonly accepted date, was composed 150 to 200 years after the events it narrates, and such a space of time, Wessén claims, is sufficient for such modifications. But the very instances quoted<sup>2</sup> to prove this, disprove it. The story of Ermanaric's death, as given by Jordanes nearly two hundred years after, may, or may not, contain a large admixture of fiction. We simply cannot tell how far the details of the story are historic: what is clear is, that the relationship of the Goths to the Huns, and of Ermanaric to both, is retained correctly. Jordanes narrates this as the contemporary Ammianus Marcellinus had recorded it. In both accounts, Ermanaric, the warlike and triumphant ruler of the mighty Gothic kingdom, is attacked by the Huns, in both accounts he fails to make headway against them, and worries over the situation, but meets his death before the final and crushing blow of the Huns has fallen. Again, the story of the death of Alboin, as told by Paul the Deacon, *may* contain legendary elements, but it certainly represents Alboin's nationality correctly.

It is the great merit of Olrik's study that, under his hands, chaos vanishes<sup>3</sup> everything falls into its place. The almost contemporary notices of Latin or Greek historians, as to the extent of the Danish tribes, and their driving out of their foes; the pæan

<sup>1</sup> Nennius. On all this, cf. Kemp Malone, *The Literary History of Hamlet*, 1, 20 etc.

<sup>2</sup> Wessén, *De Nordiska Folketammarna*, p. 81, cf. p. 31<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> See *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, p. 8.

in *Beowulf* on the glory and victories of the Danes and their wide domain; the glory of the great chiefs, Hrothgar and Hrothulf, as depicted in *Beowulf* and *Widsith*, the glory of Rolf Kraki as told in the Scandinavian tales—all these give us a consistent picture.

Instead, we are invited to believe that all our authorities agree to give a mistaken account of the facts.

And all this assumption of mistake only leads to further confusion: we have finally to postulate, not merely error, but deliberate misrepresentation. For *Beowulf* and *Widsith* represent Hrothgar and Hrothulf as victorious in their struggles against Froda and his house. But, according to this newest theory, Hrothgar and his dynasty, the defeated Heruli, ought to have been represented as declining, not triumphing. Yes, says Wessén, and so they really were, but *Beowulf* gives us a prejudiced and partizan account<sup>1</sup>, "uppenbart partisk."

So Wessén's theory cannot be reconciled with history, for history knows nothing of any Herulian realm in Denmark between 500 and 550. In order to reconcile it with the tradition of *Beowulf*, a theory of name-shift has to be called in, although a name-shift, on such an extensive scale, so soon after the events, and in all our sources, is contrary to everything we know as to the trustworthiness of Germanic legend. And, then, after all, in place of Olrik's consistent scheme, we get a story which can only be explained as a deliberate perversion of the truth.

If *Beowulf* be really as historically inaccurate as Wessén's theory compels him to assume, then how can there be any purpose in trying to base upon it the kind of historical investigation which he is making? *Beowulf* would still remain as valuable as ever for literary and grammatical study, and we should in that case be wise to confine ourselves to such study.

#### *Further Elucidation of Scylding History.*

##### *Kemp Malone and Herrmann*

But, as I have tried to show above, the archæological work of recent years, and the studies of Knut Liestøl in the development of legend, enable us to start with a belief in the value of

<sup>1</sup> *De Nordiska Folkstammarna*, p. 29.

our legendary material. And even where legend becomes most confused, as in the Scandinavian versions of latest date, a re-sifting of the evidence may enable us to sort out a few more grains of fact from among the confusion.

During the last eight years, Prof. Kemp Malone has made many attempts to elucidate the story of the kings mentioned in *Beowulf*, by a comparison of all the numerous (and often highly inconsistent) Scandinavian accounts. Prof. Malone's attempts show the combination of an independent mind with a determination to 'benefit by what Olrik has to teach us.

Malone's first contribution to the study of the stories alluded to in *Beowulf* bore the rather surprising title of *The Literary History of Hamlet*<sup>1</sup>

His thesis is that *Hamlet*, *Amlóþr*, can be analysed *Aml* + *óþr*, and that, since the tradition passed through Ireland, we are justified in reading this as *Anle óþe*. *Anle* he identifies with the *Onela* of *Beowulf*, *Hamlet* is "the wild *Onela*." It is a pleasing, if daring, hypothesis which would identify *Hamlet* with the hero who in *Beowulf* is spoken of as "the best of sea-kings who dealt out treasure in Sweden—the famous prince." But, if Malone's thesis were disproved, though the relevance of the title he has given to his book would of course vanish, the book would continue to have value. It deals (amongst others) with nearly all the heroes mentioned in *Beowulf*—Swedish, Geatic and Danish.

The book is full of bold speculation but in order to indulge in this speculation Malone builds a very solid platform based on wide reading and sober scholarship, which no student of *Beowulf* can afford to ignore. It is left for the second volume, when it appears, to carry us from Saxo to Shakespeare. But this first part is for *Beowulfians* rather than *Shakespeareans*, and, this being so, its title has sometimes led to the book being overlooked by those to whom it would have been most useful. Editors of periodicals, misled by the title, have sent the book for review to the Shakespearean scholars, who admit to being out of their depth: one of the best of them can only say, "Dr Malone writes with vigour and assurance, and prefers a bold conjecture to the dullness of security."

<sup>1</sup> Part I, *Anglistische Forschungen*, 59, Heidelberg, 1923

It is therefore fortunate that Malone has picked out many of the most important problems and dealt with them more fully in distinct studies published in periodicals<sup>1</sup>. One such study is on *The Daughter of Healfdene*—the lady whose name is missing in the *Beowulf* MS, but whom he identifies with Yrsa, the mother of Rolf Kraki and wife of Athils (Eadgils). A second (perhaps the most important) of these studies is that devoted to Hrethric.

If we return to the prophetic address of Wealhtheow to Hrothgar in *Beowulf*, it will be remembered that she speaks of the support she vainly hopes her sons will receive from the "gracious" Hrothulf, "if thou, Lord of the Scyldings, shouldst leave the world sooner than he." It is a not unnatural assumption from these words that it will be only after the death of Hrothgar that conflict will arise between Hrothulf and Hrethric and this was the inference which Olrik drew<sup>2</sup>. Yet it is not a necessary inference. The tragic irony of Wealhtheow's speech would even be increased if Hrothgar "leaves the world," not in the course of nature, but with the sword of the "gracious" Hrothulf in his body. And the two other references distinctly hint at trouble between Hrothgar himself and Hrothulf. Further, in the later Icelandic documents, despite their almost inextricable confusion, "Hróarr [= Hrothgar] is almost uniformly made a victim of a close kinsman<sup>3</sup>."

Further, the Scandinavian sources duplicate Hrethric, he comes twice into the genealogy: once as "Hrethric the hoarder of rings," *Hrærekr Hnauggvanbaugi*, and once as "Hrethric the thrower away of rings," *Hrærekr Slaungvanbaugi*.

From a careful study of the many and complicated documents, Malone reconstructs the story thus

"We may conclude that Hrothulf overthrew and killed his uncle, Hrothgar, and usurped the throne, that Hrothgar's son Hrethric, aided by the Geats, defeated Hrothulf, forced him into exile, and took possession of the Danish kingdom, finally, that Hrothulf later returned to the attack with a fleet, overthrew and killed Hrethric, and ascended the Danish throne for the second time<sup>4</sup>."

<sup>1</sup> See Bibliography, pp. 546-50, below.

<sup>2</sup> *Heroic Legends of Denmark*, p. 59.

<sup>3</sup> Malone in *Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* XLII, 285.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* p. 295.

Such a story would account for the later development:

"Since Hrethric both succeeded Hrothulf on the throne and was succeeded by him, he might be looked upon as Hrothulf's successor or his predecessor. In this way two Hrethrics might come into being, as history became tradition and tradition became a genealogical table. And in fact Saxo knows two Hrethrics, who come before and after Hrothulf respectively . . . The order of succession being what it was—Hrothulf, Hrethric, Hrothulf—one might expect that two Hrothulfs, rather than two Hrethrics, would develop. But in truth such a development could not take place, because Hrothulf held the stage. A character cannot be bisected in the full glare of publicity, a decent obscurity is essential if the operation is to be successful. Indeed, it is just this obscurity that accomplishes the bisection. Hrethric was bathed in a Hrothulfian light at two spots: the beginning and the end of his reign. But the region between was left in darkness. What wonder, then, that each spot became a person?"

The traditional (as against the historical) order of succession, then, came to be. Hrethric, Hrothulf, Hrethric<sup>1</sup>."

Hrethric must have had powerful backing if he was able, even temporarily, to drive out the mighty Hrothulf, and this lends further meaning to the passage in which Beowulf promises help to his Danish friends in time of trouble, and adds a courteous invitation to Hrethric to visit the court of the Geatas<sup>2</sup>. Anyway, the *Bjarkamál* represents the Geatas as amongst the enemies of Hrothulf in his last fight against Heoroweard.

"Ergo duces ubi sunt Gothorum militæque  
Hiarhvari? Veniant et vires sanguine pensent."

This interpretation of the action of Beowulf and the Geatas is exactly in accordance with what *Beowulf* tells us of their policies as against Sweden: the pretenders Eadgils and Eanmund are supported, even after the death of one and the defeat of the other, Beowulf perseveres, and "in later days" helps the exiled Eadgils to the throne of Sweden. It would be an exactly parallel story which would make him help Hrethric against Hrothulf, and, after the fall of Hrethric, help Hrethric's cousin Heoroweard to destroy the Danish king. This interpretation would enable us to attribute a meaning to a passage in *Beowulf* which is otherwise unintelligible<sup>3</sup>. And it would be a natural thing.

<sup>1</sup> Malone in *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* XLII, 297-8.

<sup>2</sup> 1822-39. On this cf. Malone, p. 272. Malone's interpretation here certainly seems right, as against that of Olrik. So Malone, p. 294, "It is clear that Hrethric will have Geatish support," and here Olrik seems almost in agreement, *Heroic Legends*, p. 55.

<sup>3</sup> ll. 3003-7.

The power of the Geatas, after the complete destruction of their fighting force in Hygelac's expedition, would be precarious, between the two rising kingdoms of Sweden and Denmark. Yet both those kingdoms were rent by family feuds, and the Geatas might well have sought to maintain themselves by taking advantage of this, and helping to the thrones of those kingdoms any pretenders who were favourable to themselves.

But this at once brings us up against further difficulties. For it is by no means certain that Beowulf is a historical character at all<sup>1</sup>. Yet even if he be an imaginary king, this does not prevent historic achievements of the Geatas being attributed to him. There is the further question how far this interpretation of Beowulf's invitation to Hrethric—an interpretation which makes him a friend of Hrethric and consequently a foe of Hrothulf—is compatible with a belief in his identity with Bothvar Bjarki, the faithful follower of Rolf Kraki. Certainly *Beowulf* avoids any suggestion which would subordinate its hero to Hrothulf. Yet I still believe—as against Orlík and other scholars—that there is some connection between the two figures of Beowulf and Bjarki<sup>2</sup>, and so does Prof. Malone. Malone's method of harmonizing a contradiction which would make the same figure fight on different sides in different versions of the same story, is one of the most interesting arguments in his useful book<sup>3</sup>. But it is all too complicated to be even summarized here.

Any attempt to reconstruct the history of the Scylding kings must have the great book of Axel Orlík as its groundwork and point of departure. When, in 1921, Paul Hermann completed his invaluable commentary upon Saxo Grammaticus<sup>4</sup>, after twenty-three years labour, he declared that what was best in it was due to Orlík's life-work. Hermann's book proves that his reverence is not of that superstitious kind which deprives a critic of his own freedom of judgment, but, as he says, "Everyone who writes about Saxo today must be Orlík's disciple." And so, with

<sup>1</sup> See above, pp. 13, 396, and Deutschbein, *Beowulf der Gautenkönig*, 1913.

<sup>2</sup> See above, pp. 61, 369, 395.

<sup>3</sup> *Literary History of Hamlet*, I, 90 etc.

<sup>4</sup> *Erläuterungen zu den ersten neun Büchern des Saxo Grammaticus* (II *Die Heldensagen des Saxo*) Leipzig, 1922.



a Danish scholar's estimate of Olrik's work, I will conclude this section:

"It is Axel Olrik's achievement to have given us in *Danmarks Heltedigtning* the first comprehensive picture of our Scylding age. For many years he worked at the subject, and gained an intimacy with it and an intuition which few indeed have surpassed. That Olrik could make slips, especially when he was dealing with matters apart from literature or legend or folk-lore, need not surprise us. It will not diminish the veneration with which Danish scholars will ever remember him, for he has given us a new insight into the period where the student of legend meets the student of history: those centuries, in which our nation comes into being, but of which we have such obscure historical information. Here he made a reconstruction, laboriously, from scattered details in saga and poem, and it can be asserted that as yet no Danish scholar has modified in any crucial point the picture which he drew<sup>1</sup>."

<sup>1</sup> V. La Cour, *Skjoldungefejden*, in *Danske Studier*, 1926, p. 147.

## CHAPTER III

### THE NON-HISTORICAL ELEMENTS

#### THE GRENDL STORY AND ITS ANALOGUES. TALES OF THE WATERFALL TROLLS, COMPARED WITH "THE BEAR'S SON" OR "THE HAND AND THE CHILD"

A NEW discovery of great importance for the study of *Beowulf* is published by Lawrence in his *Beowulf and Epic Tradition*, and this discovery is of all the more interest because it puts the finishing touch upon work which he has been doing for twenty years

In 1909 Lawrence<sup>1</sup> attacked the old mythological interpretation which allegorized *Beowulf's* fight with Grendel and Grendel's mother into the struggle of a god against the hostile powers of nature. Next year came Panzer's book, "a landmark in the investigation of *Beowulf*" which "struck boldly into an almost unexplored field," and suggested an alternative to the mythological interpretation by identifying the story with the "Bear's Son" folk-tale. Panzer's monumental work for the first time forcibly directed attention to the folk-tale element in *Beowulf* yet this point of view, although it had been neglected in the past, had not been entirely ignored. In 1884 Earle had declared his belief that "The *Beowulf* itself is a tale of old folklore, which, in spite of repeated editing, has never quite lost the old crust of its outline." In 1889 Laistner<sup>2</sup> had drawn attention to the likeness between *Beowulf* and two distinct types of folk-tale (1) the "Bear's Son" tale, and (2) the "Hand and the Child" tale. But Laistner's work made little impression upon a generation of *Beowulf* scholars who were searching in *Beowulf* for a god or culture-hero, and in Grendel and his mother for a nature-myth. Panzer, working independently of Laistner's suggestion, concentrated in the main on examining one particular type of story

<sup>1</sup> "Some Disputed Questions in *Beowulf* Criticism," in the *Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* xxiv, 220-73

<sup>2</sup> *Das Rätsel der Sphinx*, II, 26 etc.

—the “Bear’s Son” tale—and emphasizing its relation to *Beowulf*. Whether or no the reader agrees with Panzer’s interpretation in its details, he can hardly rise from a reading of his book without being convinced that the story of Beowulf’s adventure with Grendel and his mother is a story of a type akin to those folk-tales which the research of the nineteenth century has collected. This does not of course mean that, at the time when these stories were attributed to Beowulf, they belonged solely to “the folk,” as against the nobler classes.

Three years after the appearance of Panzer’s book, Lawrence followed up his earlier article by a discussion of the “Haunted Mere in Beowulf<sup>1</sup>,” dealing with the well-known parallel between the story of Beowulf’s struggle with the monsters and the similar adventure of Grettir the Strong at Sandhaugar, as found in the *Grettis saga*. Lawrence produced strong evidence that the story told of Grettir could not be derived from *Beowulf*, but must be an independent version, ultimately derived from the same original, but in some respects more primitive. This had often been accepted as probable on *a priori* grounds, but the question had never been fully argued. Lawrence maintained that the setting of Grettir’s adventure in a cave behind a waterfall must have been a feature of the original tale which had come down to the author of *Beowulf* and had been used by him for the Anglo-Saxon poem contains words and phrases which look like a half-understood, outworn version of such a waterfall-setting as we find in the Icelandic saga<sup>2</sup>. Yet these details are much too blurred and confused to have been able to suggest such a setting to any imitator: the phrases in *Beowulf* could not reasonably be held to be the original of the story of the cave behind the waterfall in the *Grettis saga*. In fact, he argued, without the *Grettis saga* we should not be able to understand *Beowulf* correctly. And it is quite natural that the original scenery should be retained in the *Grettis saga*, because there the story had not wandered away from lands where big waterfalls are common, and was told in a language which has words for such things. The Anglo-Saxon epic, although chronologically so much earlier,

<sup>1</sup> *Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* xxvii, 208-45 (1912).

<sup>2</sup> See above, pp 52-3.

would naturally lose this "waterfall" feature, because it was composed in a land where waterfalls are comparatively few and meagre—not at all able to shelter monsters in caves behind them

The importance of Lawrence's demonstration lay in the fact that, if the story as given in *Beowulf* and the story as given in the *Grettis saga* be both independently derived from one original, then, by a comparison of them both together, we ought to be able to form some idea of what that original was like

But in such reconstructions our task is very greatly eased if we can have more than two props to sustain our reconstructed original. Critics had found a third analogue in the *Story of Orm Storolfsson*, but, as I tried to show above<sup>1</sup>, the parallel is too remote to carry much weight. One of the many services which Prof. Boer has conferred upon the study of *Beowulf* and of the *Grettis saga* has been the demonstration that the story of Orm has been directly influenced by the *Grettis saga*, it therefore lacks that independence which alone could give it value

The story told of Orm undoubtedly belongs to the same general type as that which is told of Beowulf in Denmark or of Grettir at Sandhaugar. The hero has in turn to fight two monsters, mother and son. Orm's fights also take place in a cave. He resembles Beowulf (in contradistinction to Grettir) in that, despite his great strength, he is almost defeated save for supernatural aid he would have been overcome. But these are all commonplaces—features of a large class of stories. The resemblance between the *Orm-story* and *Beowulf* seems to me too vague to help us very much. But at the same time I must admit that most scholars have not been of this opinion, and have attached considerable importance to it<sup>2</sup>.

Another analogue which has just been pointed out bears a remote resemblance to the *Beowulf-Grettir* story. This occurs in the recently published *Flores Saga Konungs ok Sona hans*, and

<sup>1</sup> pp 53-4

<sup>2</sup> Klaeber says that "a genetic relation of some kind must clearly be admitted" (*Beowulf*, xiv). For a contrary view see Boer, *English Studies*, v, 109 (1923), and my own discussion in *English Studies*, xi, 82-4 (1929).

its importance has been emphasized by Miss Schlauch<sup>1</sup>. Here, as in the *Orm*-story, the struggle is not actually in a waterfall-cave, but in a cave overlooking the water. But here there is only one enemy, a dragon. The scenery is like that of *Beowulf* wood and water, high cliff and narrow path. The companion pulls up the rope and deliberately leaves the hero in the lurch, as in the "Bear's Son" tale. This deliberate treachery is, however, as we shall see, not a feature of the *Beowulf-Grettir*-story, or of any of its closest analogues. In all these stories the watchers believe the hero dead; the effect of the episode is merely to emphasize the hero's success by adding the element of surprise; there is no idea that the hero is exposed to the deliberate treachery of his friends<sup>2</sup>. The analogue from the *Flores saga* is, like the *Orm*-story, interesting. But the connection with the *Beowulf-Grettir* story, if there be any, is remote.

But there are three other "waterfall-cave" adventures, each of which seems to have a connection with the *Beowulf-Grettir* story.

First and most important of these is the one of which Lawrence has now for the first time pointed out the value: it is an episode found in the *Saga of Samson the Fair*.

As long ago as 1882 Child, in his *English and Scottish Popular Ballads*<sup>3</sup>, mentioned the likeness to *Beowulf* of this episode in the *Saga*. Child only noted it incidentally in his discussion of the various versions of *Lady Isabel and the Elf-Knight*. But the *Saga of Samson the Fair* was not easy of access, it was to be found only in an early eighteenth-century edition<sup>4</sup>, it is probably for this reason that the clue was not followed up.

Twenty years later Finnur Jónsson<sup>5</sup> had occasion to discuss the *Samsons saga*. He noted in passing the remarkable likeness between the episode in *Samson* and in the *Grettis saga*. It is clear

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Miss Schlauch for kindly communicating its substance to me. (It has now been published in *M.L.N.* xlv, 20-1 (1930).)

<sup>2</sup> I once thought that the action of Stein in deserting the rope might point back to a prototype of the *Beowulf-Grettir* story in which the companions are deliberately treacherous. For arguments against this, see von Sydow, *Beowulf och Bjärke*, p. 27. I now see that von Sydow is right here. In none of the "waterfall-cave" stories does the episode of the treacherous companions occur.

<sup>3</sup> I, 50.

<sup>4</sup> *Nordiska Kampa Dater* (edited by E. J. Björner), Stockholm, 1737.

<sup>5</sup> *Den oldnorske og oldislandske Litteraturs Historie*, iii, 112-3.

that he detected this quite independently of Child. He added that *Samson the Fair* was one of the sagas which most called for a reprint: and an edition was printed at Reykjavík in 1905. This is *not* a reprint of the eighteenth-century text, but a distinct version, showing minor variations

Then F. R. Schröder, in 1917, in his edition of *Hálfðanar Saga Eysteirssonar*, made in a footnote a collection of all the instances of monsters in caves under waterfalls<sup>1</sup>. He included under these Grendel and his mother; whether independently or as a result of Lawrence's essay, he did not say. I am indebted to Schröder for his useful list.

Still the clue was not followed up. But now that Lawrence has given a summary of the story in his *Beowulf and Epic Tradition*<sup>2</sup>, with an extract from the Reykjavík edition of the saga, its importance can no longer be overlooked.

The story, as given by Björner, is briefly as follows

King Artus of England has, by his wife Silvia of Hungary, a son, Samson the Fair, who is fostered by Earl Salmon and Salmon's wife Olympia. Valtína, a daughter of the Irish king Garlant, is a hostage at the court of Artus. Samson and Valtína fall in love, but, since Valtína is under his care, Artus will not consent to his son's suit for her hand: so he sends Valtína home again, and tells Samson that he must woo her in her father's house.

Valtína's father happens to have great domains in "Brettland<sup>3</sup>," whither he goes, accompanied by Valtína. But Valtína is entrapped by Kvintalinn. Kvintalinn is the son of the miller Galinn, and of a giantess who lives under the "foss" of his mill<sup>4</sup>; he is a great thief, dwells out in the forests, and by his wonderful music is able to lure women into his power<sup>5</sup>. (Here

<sup>1</sup> Independently, Knut Laestøl has given a list in *The American Scandinavian Review*, xviii, 370-3 (1930). This list contains some new examples from modern Icelandic tradition.

<sup>2</sup> A fuller discussion is given by Lawrence in the *Klaeber Miscellany*. See also my article in *English Studies*, xi, 95-100 (1929). The editor of *English Studies* permits me to reproduce some passages from that article in this book.

<sup>3</sup> "Scotland" in the Reykjavík text.

<sup>4</sup> "Eingunn maður vissi mœðern hans, enn þá otlupu flestir, að Galinn mundi eiga hann við Gýpiu, er lá undir mylinu fossinum" (Ed. Björner, p. 7).

<sup>5</sup> "Hann var þöfur ok lá uti í skogum, ok kunni mörg kindug brogð, ok margar listir hafði hann numit. Hann var mikill meistari á horpuslatti, ok þar með vilti hann margar hæverskar konur í skogum til sín."

comes in the likeness to the story of *Lady Isabel and the Elf-Knight*.) But, unlike Grendel, Kvintalin does not devour his victims—he does not even, like the Elfin Knight, slay them<sup>1</sup> Valintina is saved by the fact that Olympia, after her husband's death, has settled in Brettland Olympia intervenes when Valintina's danger is greatest, and Kvintalin is only able to seize some clothes and jewels which Valintina has cast off in her haste, following the magic music Garlant, after search, thinking his daughter lost, returns to Ireland, and meantime Olympia continues to protect Valintina

Samson is equipped by Artus for a viking raid, and in due time pays a friendly visit to Garlant in Ireland, and learns that Valintina has been lost He goes to the rescue to Brettland, and is advised to seek for counsel from Galinn the miller

Samson finds Galinn, and tells him that he is seeking Valintina Galinn says that he thinks the wild beasts have devoured her, but promises to give what help he can Samson produces a purse and ten marks of gold, and Galinn promises, "If I am in this search with thee, then she cannot be in this forest, if we find her not"

"And whilst they were speaking, Samson stood on the brink of the foss And they pledged their hands, and at that moment, before Samson was aware, both his feet were seized and he was thrown down into the foss There was come a troll-woman, and he had no power against her, but when he grappled with her they struggled, and came down to the bottom, and he saw that she was trying to drag him to the bottom He managed to draw the knife which Valintina the king's daughter had given him, and plunged it into the troll-woman's breast, and slit her belly so that the entrails fell out, and the river was like blood to look upon Samson was almost suffocated, but now he got loose, and he found that there was a cave He crept up into it, and was now so weary that he had to be there a long time before he was able to move. When he recovered his strength, he wrung out his clothes and explored the cave, and thought he would never come to the end of it Then he found a second cave opening out of the first, and there he saw much gear, and many treasures of gold and silver There was a couch exceedingly fair, with curtain and lovely coverlets. There was a stay, and gold knobs at the ends, and much bed gear Then he saw the kirtle

<sup>1</sup> Grendel has no accomplishments, but it is quite in order that the dweller in a waterfall-cave should be skilled in music like Kvintalin (see Lawrence, *Beowulf and Epic Tradition*, p 186) He may also, like Kvintalin, be amorous rather than carnivorous, as was the eight-handed giant-troll Starkath Aludreng, the grandfather of the hero Starkath This troll lived under the Alu "foss." He carried off a princess for his wife, and was slain by Thor for so doing See *Saga Gautreks Konunga*, and *Hervarar Saga* in *Fornaldar Sögur*, 1829, i, 412 and iii, 14

and mantle of Valintina the king's daughter, and her diadem, girdle and brooch. He took of these whatsoever seemed good to him, and went to the end of the cave<sup>1</sup>."

Samson gets out of the cave by the other end, not returning to the waterfall. Finally he goes back to King Garlant in Ireland, tells him of his adventures, and shows him the jewels. They agree that Valintina must be dead.

But meantime the "stealer of women" Kvintalin has been making enquiries about Samson from his father Galinn the miller. Galinn tells him

"I think that thy mother must have slain him, for the foss was all stained with blood when they had struggled a little time in it and now we will go and find her, and she must take counsel with us."

Then they went into the cave, and only grasped the air. Then they thought it clear that Samson must have killed her<sup>2</sup>."

Now it is indisputable that Child was right in seeing in the *Samson* episode a parallel to *Beowulf*, and Jónsson was right in seeing in it (independently) a parallel to the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga*. Yet, though it has resemblances to both, it can hardly be derived from either.

For the striking feature of the episode in the *Samsons saga* is the cave behind the foss, as it is also in the *Grettis saga*. Yet there is no clear indication in the poem of *Beowulf*, as we now have it, that the cave lies just behind a waterfall.

It is equally unlikely that the episode in the *Samsons saga* can be derived from the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga*. For it contains features which are found in *Beowulf* but are conspicuously absent from the *Grettis saga*. In *Beowulf* the female monster normally remains at home, the male ranges abroad for his prey. In the *Grettis saga* the parts are reversed. But in the *Samsons saga* the parts are allotted as in *Beowulf*: the male

<sup>1</sup> Ed Björner, p. 11

<sup>2</sup> This occurs only in the Reykjavik version. I cannot find it in Björner. But the emphasis placed in Björner's version, at an earlier point, upon the staining of the water with blood, shows that this detail was intended to follow, although it is absent from the text as Björner publishes it.

The passage from the Reykjavik edition I give as Prof. Lawrence has supplied it to me.

"Gallín tjáir honum [i.e. Kvintalin] af viðræðu sinni við Samson, 'og ætla eg að móðir þín hafi drepið hann því fossinn varð allur blóði drifinn er þau hófðu áttst við stundar korn í fossinum, en nú skulum við fara og finna hana og mun þú leggja á ráð með okkur'. Fara þeir þá í hellinn en grípa í tómt, þykjast þeir vita að Samson mun hafa drepið hana" (pp. 18-19).



Kvintalin wanders in the forest seeking to lure his victims from the dwellings of men, his mother lives under the foss. Kvintalin visits her cave, and carries thither trophies which he has seized. Again, both in *Beowulf* and in the *Samsons saga* the she-hag grapples with the hero in the water and drags him to the bottom: the hag has such a grip on him that for the moment he is helpless, there is nothing of this in Grettir's adventure. Grettir dives under the waterfall and enters the cave before he meets his foe.

The natural inference seems to be that the story in the *Samsons saga* is not derived from *Beowulf*, nor yet from the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga*, but gives us a third independent version of the story of which *Beowulf* and the *Grettis saga* preserve other, independent, versions

For, if three versions of one story come down independently, each naturally makes its own individual variations. This leaves features in which any two of the three agree against the third—which is exactly what we find here

The two other stories of monsters dwelling under waterfalls which offer parallels to the *Beowulf-Grettir-Samson* story are those of Gull-Thorr and Skeggi. Long ago Olrik, in *Danra*<sup>1</sup>, called attention to the likeness between the story of Beowulf's dragon and that of the dragons dwelling behind the waterfall in the *Gull-Thoris saga*. These dragons were originally vikings—Val and his sons—but to save their treasure they had gone behind the waterfall, where they lived in the form of flying dragons, lying on their gold, with helmet on head and swords beneath their shoulders. (There is an obvious resemblance to Fafnir, who guarded the gold derived originally from the dwarf Andvari, who had lived in the form of a pike in a foss<sup>2</sup>. And Val also had captured the gold which, as a dragon, he later guarded in the waterfall-cave, from a *gotunn* who originally dwelt there.) In spite of the dragon-form of Val, the story reminds us of the tales of Grendel's mother and of Grettir's adventure in the foss, rather than of Beowulf's dragon.

<sup>1</sup> I 237 (1891)

<sup>2</sup> Miss E. C. Batho calls my attention to the fact that when Andvari is robbed of his gold he goes into a hole in the rock to utter his curse. Is this an outworn reminiscence of a cave under the waterfall, where the gold had been originally hidden?

Gull-Thorir is a historical character—he was one of the early settlers of Iceland<sup>1</sup>. The saga tells how he first sought wealth by attempting to rob the grave-mound of Agnar. Agnar appears to him, reproaches him for his impiety (as well he may, being his uncle), and suggests the winning of the gold from the three dragons, Val and his two sons. Gull-Thorir and his companions accordingly sail north to the Arctic, where a river flows through a ravine to the sea. They uproot a tree and shove its branches over the edge; then, by means of a rope, Thorir and three companions reach the cave behind the fall. They are in straits, because the light they are carrying is blown out. But Thorir calls upon Agnar, and a supernatural ray of light is sent. This charms the dragons to sleep, and at the same time reveals the gold on which they rest, and the hilts of the swords under their shoulders. Thorir and his companions seize the swords and stab the dragons; but the dragons fly out, the largest one seizing in his mouth one of Thorir's companions. Two of Thorir's friends are watching the rope outside; they conclude that the adventurers are dead; one of the watchers is killed and the other disabled by the poisonous blood from the dragons' wounds. Therefore (as invariably happens in these stories) Thorir has to climb up from the foss unaided<sup>2</sup>.

Very similar is the story of Gullbra (Goldbrow)—she is a witch who has chosen to be buried in a cave under a waterfall. From this lair she destroys men and cattle, and makes her old farmstead uninhabitable. Skeggi, whose herdsmen have been slain, attacks Goldbrow in her cave (there is no preliminary resistance in the house). Skeggi, like Beowulf and Orm and Gull-Thorir, but unlike Grettir, is almost overcome. He puts up a prayer, and is saved by a ray of light which shines into the cave and turns the witch to stone. As always, the watchers assume the hero to be dead, and he has to get out as best he can<sup>3</sup>.

There is always a female monster dwelling in the cave, except in the tale of Gull-Thorir, where the dragons have ousted the

<sup>1</sup> He went out apparently before 920. His saga in its present form is supposed to date from about 1300.

<sup>2</sup> See below, pp. 498–502.

<sup>3</sup> A summary of the story of Gullbra is given by Panzer (pp. 342–3). It is given in full below, pp. 494–8.

original giant, about whose household we accordingly remain in ignorance<sup>1</sup>.

In the *Bærings saga* also we hear of a giantess who dwells in a cave under a waterfall, and who has a monstrous son—he can on occasion take upon him the form of a dragon<sup>2</sup>. In the *Orvar Odds Saga* we have the same thing—the giantess dwelling under a foss, the mother of a monstrous son<sup>3</sup>. But the parallel with Grettir and Samson does not go beyond this—the hero does not fight the giantess or penetrate into her cave.

A number of parallels, somewhat less exciting, have been collected by Knut Liestøl from modern Icelandic tradition.

“On a farm in northern Iceland it is related that on two successive Christmas Eves a female troll killed a shepherd. On the third Christmas Eve the new shepherd, Ketill, was carried away by the troll into a cavern underneath a great waterfall. On a farm called Foss (Waterfall), in Fljótum, lived two brothers. Near by was a river and a fall, and the brothers were in the habit of fishing under the fall. But in the waterfall dwelt a female troll who would not hear of their fishing there. One night she came and seized one of the brothers and dragged him down to the gorge by the waterfall and drowned him there. The surviving brother fled from the farm, which stands deserted to this day. In Thjorsardal a similar monster frequented a waterfall and lived off the fish she caught there. One day a boy threw stones into the waterfall. The next night the troll came and tried to seize the boy while he lay sleeping. After a long struggle she was forced to let go of him, but he was desperately ill for an entire month<sup>4</sup>.”

Then there is the fact, to which Liestøl also calls attention, that according to *Landnámabók* the pagan priest Thorstein Raudnef used to make sacrifices to a waterfall—all pointing to the primitive belief in something supernatural in the foss.

Everything then seems to show that the story told of Grettir of a struggle with supernatural beings dwelling in a cave beneath a waterfall is indigenous to Scandinavia. But the story told of Beowulf is, indisputably, the same as that told in the Sandhaugar episode concerning Grettir. All this supports the view put for-

<sup>1</sup> The female monster in *Grettir* clearly dwells in the cave for she seeks to drag Grettir to it, and the bones of her victims are found in it.

<sup>2</sup> *Fornsógur Suðrlanda*, ed. Cederschiöld, Lund, 1884, p. 108.

<sup>3</sup> *Rafn, Fornaldar Sögur Norðrlanda*, 1829, II, 241.

<sup>4</sup> *Beowulf and Epic Tradition in The American Scandinavian Review*, XVIII, June, 1930, p. 372.

ward by Vigfússon when he first noticed the *Beowulf-Grettir* parallel:

"The old legend shot forth from its ancient Scandinavian home into two branches, one to England, where it was turned into an epic, and one to Iceland, where it was domesticated and embodied in a popular saga tacked to the name of an outlaw and hero<sup>1</sup> [say, now, four outlaws or heroes. Grettir, Samson, Gull-Thorrir and Skeggi]."

There has been a tendency recently to suppose that the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga* is derived from *Beowulf*<sup>2</sup>; and sometimes those who take this view speak as if we who think differently were making an assumption without grounds.

The question is fundamental for any study of the main plot of *Beowulf*, and it becomes necessary to enter, at length, into an examination of the difficulties which beset those who assume the Sandhaugar episode to have been composed under the influence of a story derived from *Beowulf* as we now have it. To go through these will involve not a little repetition and recapitulation. But it is worth while. All discussion of the relation of the Grendel story in *Beowulf* to this or that group of folk-tales is in the air, till we have decided what is its relation to the tale or tales most nearly related to it.

Now there is certainly nothing intrinsically impossible in the idea of a story, derived from our extant epic of *Beowulf*, having found its way to Scandinavia, and having circulated there till the tale of Grendel and his mother became incorporated as an episode in the *Grettis saga*.

But that theory compels those who adopt it to postulate a quite extraordinary number of coincidences, none of them perhaps impossible when taken separately, but which, as a series, can hardly be assumed without utterly violating probability.

(1) There is Lawrence's argument that a waterfall is implicit in the story as told in *Beowulf*.

If we suppose the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga* and

<sup>1</sup> *Sturlunga Saga, Prolegomena*, xlix, so in *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, II, 502. "The story in Grettir we take to be an echo not of the present diluted epic, but of the lays from which the epic was later made up."

<sup>2</sup> Boer argues in this sense very strongly in *English Studies*, v, 105 (1923). The view has also been supported by Olrik (*Heroic Legends*, p. 405), von Sydow (*Beowulf och Bjärke*, pp. 26-31) contrary to his earlier view, and Heinz Dehmer (*Primitives Erzählungsgut in den Islendinga-Sögur*, p. 65 etc., 1927). Heusler in *fd A* XLIII, 53 (1924) expresses his agreement with von Sydow.

the Grendel story in *Beowulf* to be independently derived from one original, this is quite natural. The tale of the ogress in the cave under the waterfall remains, "crystal-clear," in a waterfall country. but it becomes blurred in a land where the vast waterfall scenery postulated by the story does not exist, and in a language which had not the exact words to describe it. The English poet had probably never seen a really mighty waterfall, such as the Trollhattan Falls in the land of the Geatas<sup>1</sup>. When the tale travelled to those parts of this island which the English had settled, especially if it came by way of the old home in Schleswig, the lair of the solitary monsters was naturally placed in fens. Grendel is a *þyrs*, and the natural home of a *þyrs*, the Cottonian *Gnomic Verses* tell us, is in the fens

"þyrs sceal on fenne gewunan  
āna innan lande"

In a similar way, when the Goths were dwelling among the flat and often swampy districts of what is now Western Russia, they regarded the offspring of witches and evil spirits as a race "which was of old amid the fens<sup>2</sup>". In England the word *Grendel* is connected with meres and pits and mires, for the most part situated in low-lying country, which must in Anglo-Saxon times have been swampy<sup>3</sup>. Naturally then, in *Beowulf*, Grendel and his mother dwell in the fens, and this idea is repeated till the waterfall-idea is obscured<sup>4</sup>. Equally frequent is the mention of moors<sup>5</sup>, though that word is ambiguous: the Old English *mōr* includes ravines, precipices and mountain tops.

But, amidst all this fenny country, we have a *fyr-gen-strēam*, *fyr-gen* indisputably means "mountain," but we must not think of a "mountain stream," filling the hills with music, *fyr-gen-strēam* implies large volume—the word may be applied to the currents and mountainous waves of the ocean. This vast torrent comes down (*nīþer gewīteð*) beneath the mists of the heights (*næssa genipu*), amid precipices swept by the wind (*windige*

<sup>1</sup> Such as the Trollhattan Falls were. They must not be judged from the present industrialized remnant.

<sup>2</sup> "quæ fuit primum inter paludes" Jordanes, *Getica*, ed. Mommsen, xxiv, 122.

<sup>3</sup> See above, pp. 304-11.

<sup>4</sup> 104, 1295, fen-freoðo, 851, fen-gelād, 1359, fen-hlīð, 826, fen-hop, 764.

<sup>5</sup> 103, 162, 710, 1348, 1405.

*næssas*); a precipice rises out of the water (*holm-clif*) There is a pool, the depth of which no one knows, trees overhang it

“wudu wyrtrum fæst wæter oferhelmað.”

Spray rises to the sky, as the waters from above meet the waters below:

“þonon ýðgeblond ūp ástigeð  
won to wolenum ”

• Now, those who would derive the story in the *Grettis saga* from *Beowulf* have “the choice of two things—and neither of them is good.”

They may deny that the waterfall is implicit in *Beowulf*, they may say that the *Beowulf* poet merely threw together absent-mindedly all sorts of picturesque and romantic phrases, and that it is mere accident that, when we turn back to *Beowulf* from reading the *Grettis saga* or the other Scandinavian analogues, we seem to see that the “foss,” the essential feature of the story in the Scandinavian versions, must have been in the source which lay before the *Beowulf* poet Yet it is difficult to accept such a view, when we see how neatly, in Klaeber’s words, the story in the *Grettis saga* “serves to make clear the Beowulfian representation of the Grendel abode” And in the *Gull-Þorir saga*, with its other remarkable parallels to *Beowulf*, we have the trees, and the drenching spray from the waterfall, and the promontory jutting into the pool below When we find exactly these things recurring in *Beowulf*—the water falling, the spray rising—it is difficult to believe that there was no idea of a waterfall in the sources from which the *Beowulf* poet presumably got these phrases<sup>1</sup>

But, on the other hand, those who derive the story in the *Grettis saga* from *Beowulf* may go to the opposite extreme They may say that the Sandhaugar episode in *Grettir* comes from *Beowulf*, and that the “foss” was suggested by the description in

<sup>1</sup> A casual reader might get the impression that these words refer to the tossing sea But the many words like *sæ*, *nícor*, which *might* refer to the sea, can equally refer to an inland water The constant allusions to Grendel and his mother haunting moor and fen, are conclusive, still more so the fact that there is never any unambiguous phrase of the kind that must have been used if the poet had thought of his monsters as haunting the deep sea Klaeber says, “That Grendel lives in the sea cannot be conceded” (p 176) It seems to me that any interpretation which rejects Klaeber’s verdict is in the air

*Beowulf*. But in that case it has to be explained why it was so long before critics were able to see that the waterfall-setting, explicit in the *Grettis saga*, was nevertheless implicit in *Beowulf*. To many of us this now seems clear—but only with the *Grettis saga* before us, and even then only after reading Lawrence's excellent demonstration. I remember W. P. Ker saying, "Strange, that none of us ever noticed that before." The waterfall-setting in *Beowulf* is almost obliterated, visible only when searched for, like the original writing of some palimpsests. It is one of those things which, however obvious after they are pointed out, are not noticed till they are pointed out, in fact, even now, some scholars deny that the waterfall-setting is to be found in *Beowulf* at all<sup>1</sup>. To me, it seems equally difficult on the one hand to deny that there are traces of a waterfall-setting in *Beowulf*, or on the other to assert that the confused scenery of *Beowulf* can be the origin of the vivid account in the *Grettis saga*.

(ii) In any case it is certain that in *Beowulf* there is no suggestion that the cave is just behind the waterfall. *Beowulf* plunges to the bottom, and in course of time finds himself in a cave free from the water. Nothing is said of his rising after his dive—the cave appears to be at the bottom of the mere—it is sheer un-reason. Of course such un-reason *does* occur elsewhere in *Beowulf*. But when we confront the *Beowulf* account with the Sandhaugar episode, the episode reveals itself as eminently reasonable. The hero, in order to get *under* the waterfall, *has* to dive to the bottom. "Can it be done?" I remember asking W. P. Ker. "Yes," said Ker, "I have done it." (All depends, of course, upon the volume of the waterfall.)

So here again we have the same phenomenon. What is confused in *Beowulf* is found to be clear in the Sandhaugar episode, and what is fantastic and unreasonable in *Beowulf* is found to be rational in the Sandhaugar episode. The *dissecta membra* turn into something reasonable, in the light of the *Grettis saga*. Chance again?

(iii) In *Beowulf* the hero plunges into the water, swims a long distance, and reaches the cavern, free from water, where he slays Grendel's mother and strikes off Grendel's head. From this

<sup>1</sup> von Sydow, *Beowulf* och *Bjarke*, p. 31.

cavern the blood somehow flows into the mere, and makes its way across, to the spot where the watchers are. This spot is far distant from the cavern, which it has taken Beowulf *hwil dages* to reach—we may render this phrase either “a large part of the day” or “the space of a day,” as we will. Of course, again, unreasonable like this is possible in *Beowulf*, though one wonders how so far-fetched an idea ever occurred to anybody. But when we turn to the Sandhaugar episode, we find that the mutilated body of the giant falls into the stream, the blood and fragments of the body are, inevitably, carried down stream to the watcher below. What in *Beowulf* is absurd, is seen in the Sandhaugar episode to be logical, consistent, and indeed inevitable.

Of course it would be wrong to argue that, given a number of variants of the same story, the most rational version is to be supposed the original one. For, obviously, a later man may retell a story, cutting out what he finds irrational, and substituting a setting as “crystal-clear,” to use Lawrence’s phrase, as that which we find in the Sandhaugar episode, with the waterfall, the cave behind, and the blood carried down the stream.

But the point is that all these things, the torrent rushing down, the cave and the blood-stained water, do *actually occur in the Beowulf story*, but that they read there like a confused, half-forgotten and quite unreal version of the setting which comes out so clear in the Sandhaugar episode.

(iv) It has already been pointed out how the *Samsons saga* provides an awkward problem to those who deny the independent survival of a Scandinavian type of the Grendel story in Scandinavian lands. Such critics must assume that the episode in the *Samsons saga* is also derived from *Beowulf*. It cannot come from the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga*, for it preserves Beowulfian features which the *Grettis saga* has lost. But how, on the other hand, can we account for the features obscured in *Beowulf* but clear in *Grettis*, which come out equally clearly in the *Samsons saga*? It may be replied that these details were subsequently imported into the *Samsons saga* from the *Grettis saga*. But why? If the story which the *Samsons saga* has in common with *Beowulf* closely resembled the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga*, then we could understand an author or reviser



of the *Samsons saga* who knew the *Grettis saga* being struck by the resemblance, and proceeding to touch up one story from the other. But, in fact, the things in which the *Samsons saga* resembles *Beowulf* (the roving plundering male; his mother haunting the water, grappling with the hero in the water and dragging him down) *do not occur* in the *Grettis saga* at all. What, then, should have set the saga-man upon making his composite by adding, from the *Grettis saga*, the idea of the cave behind the foss, and the rapids stained by the blood of the disembowelled monster whose body they are carrying down?<sup>1</sup> Is it not special pleading to ask us to believe that the saga-man, with the whole field of stories to choose from, just happened to combine the two things that would mislead Prof. Lawrence by giving him the phenomenon his theory demands?

For the phenomena *do* suggest the independent derivation of the three stories attributed to Beowulf, Grettir and Samson, because it is obvious, as I have pointed out above, that, if the Beowulf, Grettir and Samson episodes are independently derived from a common source, each version will lose or obscure something, so that there will be points upon which any two will always agree against the third

(v) There is one important feature, however, which the story in *Beowulf* possesses, which is found neither in the *Grettis saga* nor in the *Samsons saga*. Grendel's mother has the hero down, and it is twice emphasized that, but for supernatural aid, Beowulf would have been lost. This supernatural help *does* occur, however, in the two other "waterfall-cave" stories, the *Gull-Thoris saga* and the story of *Gullbra*. (Of course it is a common feature, it is found also in the *Orm* story.) It is worth noting how the motive is treated. Gull-Thorir calls upon the spirit of Agnar to help him; in response a ray of light is sent. This ray shines into the cave, and when it reaches the monsters (in this case

<sup>1</sup> The episode of the stamming of the water with the monster's blood, and the watchers' belief that the hero is dead, comes also in the *Thorsteins saga Víkingssonar*, cap. 23 (*Fornaldar Sögur*, II, 1829). The likeness of this to *Beowulf* was noticed by C. N. Gould in *Modern Philology*, VII, 214, though he wisely refused to dogmatize. It looks as if there was some connection between the text of the *Thorsteins saga* and the text of *Samson* as printed by Björner. Samson rips open his foe *tígulknefti*, er *Valmúna Kongs dottr* *hafsi* *gefit* *honum*, compare *Thorsteinn tekur þá tígulknefina, sem Sindri gaf honum*, in the corresponding passage (*Fornaldar Sögur*, II, 452).

dragons) it renders them powerless. By the light of the ray Gull-Thorir and his companions see the magic swords—they draw them and stab the dragons with them. But so venomous is the blood of the wounded dragons that, when it falls upon one of the victors, it destroys him.

In the story of Gullbra the supernatural help is less elaborate. The hero, faced with defeat, implores help, and a ray of light is sent which, without further ado, destroys the monster.

Turning back to *Beowulf*, Grendel's mother overthrows Beowulf, and has him down. She draws her knife to slay him. He would have been destroyed, but for his coat of mail, and the judgment of God. The Lord decides rightly. Beowulf stands up. Then he sees a huge sword among the gear, draws it, and strikes off the monster's head. A glare like sunlight is in the cave.

“Lixte se lēoma lēoht inne stōd  
efne swā of hefene hādre scīneð  
rodores candel”

Beowulf then turns by the wall, sees the body of Grendel, and cuts off his head. Beowulf tells the tale again, on his return to the palace of Hrothgar, emphasizing how he was almost slain, and saved only by the interposition of God, who allowed him to see the mighty old sword hanging on the wall, with which he slēw Grendel's mother.

In *Beowulf* it is not clear by what instrumentality the divine interposition worked. If a giantess, knife in hand, is kneeling on your chest, it will afford you small comfort to see a sword hanging on the wall. Is it not intrinsically likely that the original story told how help was sent to the hero in the form of a ray like sunlight? This at the same time dazzles the monster and shows the hero the sword, so that he can spring up and seize it. A detail like this would naturally be obscured in the Old English epic, which never tells a tale in a strictly chronological way, but with a certain backward and forward movement *ABAB*, as the formula puts it. Indeed it is quite possible that the story, as the author of *Beowulf* here meant to depict it, actually *was* that God intervened by sending a ray of light. Beowulf, we are told, would have been slain had not God decided the issue rightly. Beowulf stood up, saw the wondrous sword, seized it, and struck

off his foe's head. The light was gleaming: it was shining within the cave as brightly as the sun in heaven<sup>1</sup>. This is certainly not more disjointed than, for instance, the story of the fugitive robbing the dragon's hoard<sup>2</sup>.

Here again, then, we seem to have just the same phenomenon. The Scandinavian waterfall-monster story tells us of the ray of light revealing the magic sword to the hero in distress. In *Beowulf* we have the hero in distress, the magic sword, and the ray of light, but only when we compare the Scandinavian waterfall story do we seem to see the connection of these *disiecta membra*. Chance again?

(vi) Of course the magic sword found in the monster's domain is a commonplace of story, we can base no very elaborate argument upon so trite a feature. In the *Gull-Þorir saga* the hero brings back with him the sword "Hornhilt," *Hornhjaltr*. In *Beowulf* only the "golden hilt" of the sword can be brought back to Hrothgar, because so poisonous is the blood of his adversary that the blade of the sword melts like ice. In the *Grettir saga* the weapon found below is used, not by the hero against the monster, but by the monster against the hero.

"When Grettir came to him, the giant leaped up and seized a halberd (*fleinn*) and hewed at the new-comer for with that halberd he could both cut and stab. It had a handle of wood, men at that time called a weapon made in such a way a *hepti-sax* (hafted cutlass). Grettir smote against it with his short sword and struck the handle so that he cut it asunder."

So, despite the difference in the situation, we have again the same episode of the wonderful sword with an exceptional haft.

The word *hæft-mēce* (*Beowulf*, l. 1457) occurs nowhere else in Anglo-Saxon, nor is *hepti-sax* found elsewhere in Icelandic. But the *hæft-mēce* in *Beowulf* does not belong to the troll, nor is it found in the cave, on the contrary it is the sword which Unferth

<sup>1</sup> A modern reader is likely to be misled by taking *līxte se lēoma, lēoht mne siðd*, as the preterite tense, and as necessarily subsequent to the event which precedes, *bānhringas brāc*. But we have only to compare the other examples of these phrases in *Beowulf* to see that this is not so. l. 311, *līxte se lēoma* it had been shining all the time, ll. 726-7, *him of ēagum siðd lēoht unsæger* (as Grendel steps down the hall) we need not suppose that Grendel's eyes were any milder when he was forcing his way in.

Of course, if this interpretation be correct, it destroys the suggested parallel with stories where the hero kindles a light after slaying the monster. (See p. 380 above.)

<sup>2</sup> Especially ll. 2280-9. Cf. Klaeber's *Introduction*, pp. lvi-lx.

lends Beowulf for his adventure, and which Beowulf has to throw away, because it proves useless for the task. When Unferth gives it to Beowulf we are told

“wæs þāem hæft-mēce Hrunting nama”

“The hilted sword was named Hrunting” This casual use of the word *hæft-mēce* would not have attracted attention or called for any remark, were it not for its counterpart the *hepti-sax* in the *Grettis saga*. For in *Beowulf*, the bare word *hæft-mēce* is unobtrusive, and is used in another context

This corresponds once again with what we have so often found already that features which come out emphatic and “crystal-clear” in one or other of the Scandinavian versions are in *Beowulf* obscure and unobtrusive so much so that we only perceive their real import when we compare *Beowulf* with the Scandinavian versions

(vii) Further, the theory which would make these Scandinavian tales derive from the English epic has an *a priori* unlikelihood. Here is a story which, although we first find it in an English epic, is there put before us in a definitely Scandinavian setting an achievement of a Scandinavian hero at the court of a Scandinavian king. And this story, told in Old English times as a definitely Scandinavian one, is found surviving in Scandinavian lands, and in Scandinavian lands only, in the tales of Grettir and Samson. For, although the rending off or the cutting off of the arm of a supernatural foe is to be found, I will not say “from China to Peru,” but certainly from Japan<sup>1</sup> to California<sup>2</sup>, nevertheless nothing quite close to the story of Beowulf and Grendel’s mother has as yet been found anywhere in the world save in these two Scandinavian sagas, especially that of Grettir

Of course it is quite conceivable that a Scandinavian story, after being brought to England, might have died out in its own home, and might then have been reintroduced into Scandinavia from England. Such things do happen. But it is illegitimate to assume them, without heavy evidence. What about the other

<sup>1</sup> York Powell, “Beowulf and Watanabe-no-Tsema,” *Furnivall Miscellany*, 1901, pp. 395-6

<sup>2</sup> Curtin, *Hero Tales of Ireland*, p. 558. See also below, p. 490.

stories which were current in England in the eighth century and which we find surviving in Scandinavia in the thirteenth? Is it going to be argued that the tales of Hrothgar and Hrothulf, of Eadgils and Onela, were also reintroduced into Scandinavia from England?

(viii) But, if not, then we are further entitled to point out that *Beowulf* is a mixture, often a rather intricate mixture, of a story of monster-quelling with courtly, "heroic," epic elements. Yet in the *Grettis saga* and in *Samson* it is only the monster-quelling element that recurs, with no trace of the courtly setting at Hrothgar's hall. If the composers of these sagas got their story ultimately from *Beowulf*, someone had managed to separate the one element from the other in a very skilful way. This reducing of *Beowulf* back again to the form of simple story, without its aristocratic setting, is a thing which a skilled student, with the apparatus of modern research to hand, could do. But I have tried elsewhere<sup>1</sup> to show the difficulties which would have beset the Icelandic saga-man who tried to do it. The argument is too long and complicated to repeat here at length. But it seems to me to present yet another very real difficulty to those who suppose the *Grettir* episode to be derived from *Beowulf*.<sup>2</sup>

(ix) The account in *Beowulf* tells, quite explicitly, how the hero was seized in the water by Grendel's mother, and carried to her cave. Now, nine years before the parallel between *Beowulf* and the *Grettis saga* had been observed, Mullenhoff<sup>3</sup> had argued that the original version was one which represented the hero as free penetrating the cave, seeing the monster, and attacking her. And Mullenhoff makes out a strong case here; it is a "palpable

<sup>1</sup> *English Studies*, xi, 91-2 (1929)

<sup>2</sup> Since I wrote these lines a somewhat parallel distinction between *Beowulf* and *Grettir* has been emphasized by Hubener: the *Grettir* story is more immediately in touch with the world of primitive beliefs than is the *Beowulf* story: "Gewiss, Grendel ist noch für den Dichter soweit Wirklichkeit, dass er ihn als Damon erkennt und in christlicher Wendung dem Geschlechte Kains zuordnet. Aber der Hauptgegenstand der Dichtung ist nicht, wie in der *Grettirsage* er es ganz deutlich ist, das Dämonische selbst und seine furchtbaren Wirkungen und das erschütternd Grosse des Mutes und der Kraft, die der heroische Austreiber zu beweisen hat, sondern dieser ganze überheferte Stoff wird nur genommen, um daran ritterliche Lebensart und Form zu entfalten." *England und die Gestaltungsgrundlage der europäischen Frühgeschichte*, 1930, p. 104.

<sup>3</sup> *Z. f. d. A.* xiv, 210 (1869).

hit" (We may admit this without following Mullenhoff when, on the strength of a few such "palpable hits," he proceeds to divide the whole of *Beowulf* up, line by line, into its component parts. But it would be bigotry to deny that Mullenhoff *did* put his finger upon certain real inconsistencies in our extant poem<sup>1</sup>.) Now the Sandhaugar episode does actually give the story in the form which Mullenhoff, quite independently and without any knowledge of the bearing of the Sandhaugar episode upon *Beowulf*, had nevertheless perceived to be the original version. How did the Icelandic writer get it? Unless he possessed critical powers equal to those of Mullenhoff, he certainly could not have got his account out of the *Beowulf* story as we now have it.

(x) Few of us, nowadays, have much hope of arriving at the primitive lays which lie behind our extant poem of *Beowulf*. We realize that the number of variants of lays and episodes and allusions must have been vast in days when every chief had his official *scop* performing every evening, to say nothing of the minstrels at the cross roads and the bridges, and amateurs who would take a hand after a feast when there was *blisse intringa gedēmed*. We can see how an elaborate poem like *Beowulf* may easily reflect inconsistent stories, without our being able to share the hopes of Mullenhoff or ten Brink or Boer that we can dissect our epic into its component lays. The analogy of the epic of William Morris, "The Story of Sigurd the Volsung," shows us how a poem may be emphatically the work of one man, bearing the mark of his individuality, and may yet reflect in its inconsistencies the inconsistent lays which lie behind it. This is the way in which I have always accounted to myself for the inconsistency in the story of the grappling of *Beowulf* with Grendel's mother. That there is an inconsistency seems to me undeniable. I said so sixteen years ago. "Here the discrepancy is a more real one than usual. The monster has seized *Beowulf* at the bottom of the [mere], and carried him to her hall, powerless to use his weapons. Yet ll. 1518-22 give the impression that

<sup>1</sup> This was very excellently pointed out by Earle nearly forty years ago, whilst dissenting from Mullenhoff's theories, Earle admitted that "Zeal for theory has wonderfully sharpened the keen eye of observation. The study of the *Beowulf* has been over and over again greatly indebted to the shrewd remarks of Mullenhoff" (Earle, *Deeds of Beowulf*, 1892, p. xliii.)

Beowulf enters the hall, able to fight, and there, by the light of the fire, sees Grendel's mother for the first time." The version which makes Beowulf enter the hall and attack is found in the *Grettis saga*, agreeing even to the detail of the fire, by the light of which the hero sees the monster. The version which makes the monster grapple with Beowulf as he enters the water from above, so that he is dragged to the bottom, powerless for the moment to use his weapons, has now, within the last few months, been re-discovered in the *Samsons saga*. What is blurred in *Beowulf* comes out clear in the other versions: two inconsistent accounts have been combined in the Old English, but each left its descendants in its original Scandinavian home. In the course of time these are found in two Scandinavian versions of what is indisputably the same story as the *Beowulf* story, each Scandinavian version reflecting one of the variants which the story, as told in *Beowulf*, compels us to assume. Is this again to be dismissed as accident?

Now, against all these arguments, what is there to set on the other side?

It is urged, by those who believe the Sandhaugar episode to be derived from *Beowulf*, that the words *hæft-mēce* and *hepti-sax* point to a connection of a kind which could not have survived through many centuries of oral tradition. "Oral tradition cannot, for more than a limited time, retain a subsidiary motive which has no signification for the main story<sup>1</sup>."

The argument is, that this word *might* have survived through the comparatively short period of oral tradition intervening between *Beowulf* and the *Grettis saga*, but that such an insignificant feature would not have survived the long period of oral

<sup>1</sup> von Sydow, *Beowulf och Bjarke*, p. 29. Boer also argues that *hepti-sax* shows a literary connection and can be directly traced back to O.E. *hæft-mēce* (*English Studies*, v, 108). Sarrazin in 1905 argued from *hæft-mēce* and *hepti-sax* the exact reverse—namely, that *Beowulf* was derived from the Scandinavian. "Nicht selten kommen gerade in diesem abschnitt ungewöhnliche wörter und wendungen vor, welche auffallend mit aldnordischen übereinstimmen, zb v. 1458 *hæftmēce*, vgl. altnord. *hepti-sax*. Für diese partie des Beowulfliedes wird also jedenfalls ziemlich genau wiedergabe der urdanischen überlieferung wahrscheinlich" ("Neue Beowulf-Studien," in *Englische Studien*, xxxv, 22). It is curious that the argument, at one time used to prove *Beowulf* derived from the Scandinavian, should at another time be used to prove the exact reverse.

tradition intervening between an assumed remote common original and its late descendants, *Beowulf* and the *Grettis saga*. The answer is that the word may have been weighty in the original story and may only have become trivial and unimportant in *Beowulf*. So that the argument becomes double-edged, in fact, on examination, it tells for the theory of the common original, rather than against it. For it is difficult to see why the mention of the *hæft-mēce* should have survived from *Beowulf*, where it is so very casual, and so have reached the *Grettis saga*, where indeed it has significance. For we have seen that in the *Grettis saga* the peculiarity of the "hafted-cutlass" (*hepti-sax*) is stressed, but in *Beowulf* the bare word *hæft-mēce* is used of the sword which Unferth lends to Beowulf, and used in a way which would not call for any remark were it not for the *hepti-sax* of the *Grettis saga*, and we have seen that this corresponds to what we have so often found before that features which come out emphatic and "crystal-clear" in the *Grettis saga* are in *Beowulf* obscure or unobtrusive so much so that we only perceive their true import after we have read the *Grettis saga*.

Presumably, in the original story, as it existed before our *Beowulf* was composed, an important part was played by the sword with a wonderful hilt which the hero met with in the cave. In *Beowulf* ten lines are devoted to describing the presentation of the hilt to Hrothgar, twelve lines to describing the hilt itself. The sword is characterized by its hilt: it is called first *fetel-hilt*, then *wreopen-hilt*. The hilt is of gold (*gylden hilt*), or it may be that *Gylden-hilt* is the name of the sword and it has been thought that we have an echo of this in the sword *Gullin hilt*, which appears in the corresponding passage in the *Saga of Rolf Kraki*, as the name of the sword by which the monster is struck.

When we turn to the prose of the *Grettis saga*, we find that much is made of the "hafted cutlass" (*hepti-sax*) which Grettir encounters in the hands of the giant in the cave. Further, that this was an important part of the story, as the compiler of the *Saga* knew it, is also indicated by the important part the *hepti-sax* is made to play in the verses, late as these doubtless are. Just as *Beowulf* brings back to Hrothgar the rune-inscribed hilt which is all that is left of the sword, so Grettir leaves with Stein a stave



of wood upon which is inscribed in runes an account of the separation of the haft of the "hafted cutlass" from its blade:

"Harpeggjat létu hoggvet  
heftesax af skapte"

If the *Grettis saga* were derived from *Beowulf*, we might have expected the sword which the hero meets below in the cave to go by the name *fetill-hjalti*, or *gullin-hjalti*, corresponding to *fetel-hilt*, *gylden-hilt*, the names given to it in *Beowulf*.

In the original story—say of the sixth century—the sword was probably described in a number of words compounded with the element *haft* or *hilt* one of these *haft*-compounds survives in the *Grettis saga*, whilst in *Beowulf* it also survives, but has got into a different context<sup>1</sup>

There is nothing unprecedented in this "haft"-motive having survived in oral tradition through many centuries. In a similar way the "gallows"-motive runs through the *Hambismál* in the *Elder Edda*, and is found surviving in the sixteenth-century Low German Lay of *King Ermanaric's Death* it has passed through ages of oral tradition quite comparable to the length of time we have to postulate if we suppose the "haft"-motive to have passed by oral tradition from a sixth-century original to the composer of the *Grettis saga*

We can point to other features which these two lays concerning the onslaught on Ermanaric have preserved from the original to which they must both ultimately owe their origin, though more than six centuries of oral tradition must lie between the latest extant version and the earliest version we can divine<sup>2</sup>. Again, a very close parallel to the two compound words *hæft-mēce*, *heft-sax*, is afforded by the survival of the word *fīfel-dör*, "the monster gate," in Old English poetry, the correct form, preserving the name of the river Eider (*ēgor-dör*), is recorded in continental story. Here, again, an oral tradition lasting over many centuries can alone account for the facts

<sup>1</sup> There would be no impossibility in the original story having mentioned runes upon the hilt for inscriptions are found on swords of the fifth and sixth centuries.

<sup>2</sup> Heusler (*Lied und Epos*, p. 4) suggests eight centuries (from an eighth-century original, from which come on the one hand the *Hambismál* as it survives in the *Codex Regius*, and on the other the ballad of *King Ermanaric's Death* as it was printed in the sixteenth century)

It may be objected that it is in the nature of a sword to have a hilt or haft, and that there is no reason why such a trite and commonplace feature should persist in the story through many centuries. Equally it is in the nature of a tyrant to keep and use a gallows; yet we find the gallows stressed in the Ermanaric story, alike in the *Elder Edda* and in the sixteenth-century lay, and stressed in the same way, and it is this which makes the "gallows"-motive such a valuable parallel.

Three swords in Northern story have names derived from their hilt. (1) "Hornhilt, adorned with gold<sup>1</sup>," in the story of Gull-Thorr and his cave-fight, (2) Golden-hilt (*gylden-hilt*), in Beowulf's cave-adventure (if indeed that be a name at all), and (3) Golden-hilt (*Gulln-hjalti*), in the corresponding place in the *Saga of Rolf Kraki*. So important a part does this sword play in the *Saga of Rolf Kraki* that the hero who wields *Gulln-hjalti* is supposed to be named after it, *Hjalti*. "Thou shalt be called Hilt," says Rolf to him, "after the sword Goldenhilt," and under that name he has a place in Northern tradition<sup>2</sup>. Among the 176 names of swords famous in Northern story which Falk<sup>3</sup> has collected, these are the only names derived from the hilt. Then we have the *hepti-sax* episode in the *Grettis saga*, and the word *hæft-mēce* in *Beowulf*.

Now I can imagine a scholar dismissing all this as accidental coincidence, and perhaps he would be right. But if we are to argue from it at all, our argument must surely be that in the original story an important part was played by a sword with a wondrous haft or hilt. In some versions this is obscured, in *Beowulf* the word *hæft-mēce* has ceased to have any signification for the main story. In the *Grettis saga* it remains significant. But to argue that the word in *Beowulf*, because of its insignificance, must be the original of the name in the *Grettis saga*, is surely a *non-sequitur*<sup>4</sup>.

It seems to me that the evidence that all these stories are

<sup>1</sup> *Gull-Thoris saga*, cap. 4, "sverð þat sem Hornhjalti hét, þat var mjök gulli burt," *Hálfðanar saga Eysteinnssonar*, cap. 26.

<sup>2</sup> For a hero developed from the name of a weapon, compare the giants *Huldr* and *Grímr*, who grow out of the name of the helmet *Huldegrím* (*Þiðreks saga*, 17). For the name *Hjalti*, see Olrik, *Heroic Legends*, p. 252 etc.

<sup>3</sup> *Altordische Waffenkunde*, pp. 47-64.

<sup>4</sup> See also *English Studies*, xi, 92-4.

independent versions of one original quite clearly stands. If so, a comparison of them should reveal something like the original story. If we neglect elements which are peculiar to one version only, we get a tale like this

(1) A creature with superhuman powers ravages a place, and carries off human beings. In *Beowulf* the victims are the retainers from the King's hall, in *Grettir* and *Skeggi* they are the inhabitants of Icelandic homesteads, in *Samson* it is the Princess Valintina. In the first three stories the victims are taken by force, the Princess Valintina is enticed by music into the forest. The ravager himself wanders abroad, but he has a mother who lives in a cave. This feature is preserved in *Beowulf* and *Samson*, in *Grettir* the sexes are reversed, in *Skeggi* there is only one ravager, a female. Only in *Gull-Thorr* are the dragons quiescent till attacked for their gold (compare the dragon in *Beowulf*). But these dragons are only the later inhabitants of the cave: they won it and its treasure from its original owner, who was a *jötnunn*, just as Grendel is an *eoten*.<sup>1</sup>

(2) This cave is behind a waterfall, in all the four Scandinavian versions. In *Beowulf* it is "under the torrent," near a pool where "the torrent comes down," and the "mingled waters rise up towards the clouds," and "the torrent pours away below the level of the ground,"<sup>2</sup> but the exact position of the cave relative to the falling torrent is not defined.

(3) A champion comes from a far distance, purposely to the rescue (*Beowulf*, *Grettir*, *Samson*). This seems to be an original feature of the story, for in *Grettir* it persists, although quite inappropriate, since *Grettir* is haunted by "Glam's eyes" and fears the dark, though he fears nothing else, he should be the last man to seek out these dwellers in darkness. In *Gull-Thorr* also the champion comes from a distance. In *Skeggi* alone the champion is a neighbour.

(4) In *Beowulf* and *Grettir* the champion awaits the attack of the ravisher within the house, lying down<sup>3</sup>, wrestles with him and defeats him. But he is not completely successful: the enemy gets away with the loss of an arm, and the conqueror has not the satisfaction of showing the corpse. (This detail does not occur in *Samson*, *Skeggi* or *Gull-Thorr*.)

(5) The hero plunges into the water (*Beowulf*, *Grettir*), in *Samson* he is plunged, involuntarily. In *Skeggi* and *Gull-Thorr* a rope is used by which the hero gets to the cave behind, without swimming under the foss. In *Grettir* a rope is provided for the hero to get back, but he prefers to dive and swim to the cave.

(6) In *Beowulf* the hero is seized by his foe in the water, yet he later enters the cave, apparently free, and renews the attack. In *Samson* the struggle takes place in the water, in the other three versions the battle does not begin till the hero has entered the cave.

(7) In all versions save *Grettir* and *Samson* the hero is so over-matched that without supernatural help he would have been destroyed.

<sup>1</sup> But the Icelandic *jötnunn* is descended from Thor, not from Cain. *Hálfðanar saga Eysteinnssonar*, xxvi (ed. Schröder, 1917).

<sup>2</sup> *Jöð under foldan*, i.e. the earth and rocks rise above the water. Lawrence compares *bāt under beorge*. I assume that l. 2128 refers to the cave.

<sup>3</sup> On this see Hubener, *England und die Gesittungsgrundlage der europäischen Frühgeschichte*, cap. 3.

In *Beowulf* the enemy has got him down, but through God's help he sees a magic sword upon the wall, he rises up, smites off his foe's head; a gleam of light like the sun is shining in the cave. In *Gull-Thorir* the ray of light is sent in response to an appeal for help, it bemuses the foe and shows the hero where the swords can be found. In *Skeggi* the light is sent in response to a prayer, and itself destroys the foe.

(8) In *Beowulf*, *Grettir* and *Gull-Thorir* the sword which the hero meets below is characterized by its *haft* or *hilt*

(9) In every case the hero is thought to be slain. The reasons vary in *Beowulf*, *Grettir* and *Samson* the water is seen to be blood-stained, in *Gull-Thorir* the watchers see a dragon flying with one of the adventurers in his mouth, in *Skeggi* there seem to have been two variant versions, giving different reasons why the watchers desert their post. But in every case the watcher or watchers believe the hero dead. In *Gull-Thorir* they are put out of action by the dragons, in the other versions they<sup>1</sup> depart voluntarily.

(10) There is always gold in the cave, but apparently a curse is upon it. Here the stories branch into two distinct types. *Beowulf*, the Sandhaugar episode of *Grettir* and *Samson* are all tales with a happy ending so far as the cave adventure is concerned, that adventure may, as in the case of *Grettir*, have been fitted into a tragic life-story, but there is nothing to connect the adventure itself with any misfortunes which may befall the hero. In these tales emphasis is always laid upon the hero taking something which links the cave adventure with earlier episodes in the tale—Grendel's head, or the bones of the trolls' victims, or the jewels of the princess. On the other hand, in *Skeggi* and *Gull-Thorir*, the hero carries off a vast gold hoard, but the gold is uncanny, if not actually accursed, and the hero takes it back to the tomb with him. Like the dragon hoard in the latter part of *Beowulf*, the gold is only rescued from the cavern into which it had been taken by an earlier owner, to return to the grave with the hero who rescues it. It remains

"eldum swā unnyt swā hit æror wæs"<sup>2</sup>

(11) But anyway, the hero is not dead yet, and his adventure ends with the surprise of the watchers at his unexpected return.

All this seems to confirm the opinion expressed above<sup>3</sup>, that it is going too far to speak of *Beowulf* as a version of the "Bear's Son" folk tale. We have now compared *Beowulf* with four analogues, two of which, *Grettir* and *Samson*, are really very close. There are obvious points of resemblance between *Beowulf*-*Grettir* and the "Bear's Son" tale: a fight in a house followed by a fight underground, the wonderful sword, companions or spectators who leave the hero below. The essential difference remains—the Bear's son rescues princesses in the underworld, and it is because they wish to rob him of his princesses that his companions leave him in the lurch. There is nothing of this in *Beowulf*.

<sup>1</sup> In *Beowulf*, of course, only some of them

<sup>2</sup> *Beowulf*, l. 3168

<sup>3</sup> pp. 67-8

Not only is there nothing of this in *Beowulf*, there is nothing of it in any of the other four parallel adventures, in the stories of Grettir, Samson, Gull-Thorir or Skeggi. It is true that in the story of Samson a princess is introduced. She has been spirited from her father's care, the hero comes to the rescue. But here the essential difference comes in between these stories and the "Bear's Son" tale. The hero does *not* find the princess in the cave below. And he has *not* companions who desert him and leave him below *in order to rob him of his princess*.

Despite a general resemblance, the adventure of the hero in the water cave is not the same thing as the "Bear's Son" story. Nevertheless, there is a general resemblance. How are we to account for some of the more specific resemblances between certain Icelandic and Norwegian versions of the "Bear's Son" story and the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga*—such resemblances as the recurrence in both stories of the name Stein for the companion who watches the rope? It may perhaps be, as von Sydow suggests, that an Icelandic version of the "Bear's Son" story has influenced the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga*<sup>1</sup>.

For forty years scholars have also from time to time been comparing the *Beowulf* story with another type of tale—one of the many versions of "The Hand and the Child." In the last year or two this has become the fashionable theory once more. And here again there is, undoubtedly, a general resemblance. There is a struggle in a house which results in the tearing off of a monster's arm, and this is often followed by a pursuit, in the course of which a second encounter takes place. Yet the essential feature of the story is not to be found in *Beowulf* or in any of the variants most nearly allied to *Beowulf*. The essential thing in "The Hand and the Child" is that young children have, in turn, been stolen from a room, year after year, no one knows how. The hero watches, he seizes the arm which comes through a window or chimney to steal the child, and wrenches the arm off. Pursuit is given, and all the children are recovered. Now there is surely a fundamental difference between the story of a monster who,

<sup>1</sup> *Beowulf och Bjärke*, p. 28.

like Grendel, destroys those who remain overnight in the haunted dwelling, and the story of the furtive arm which steals away one child after another, till the hero comes and restores all the children to their parents.

Nevertheless the resemblances in detail have proved sufficient to strike a large number of scholars. The first, I think, to notice the likeness was Laistner<sup>1</sup> in 1889, then Stopford Brooke<sup>2</sup> in 1892, then A. S. Cook<sup>3</sup> in 1899. All three noticed this likeness independently of each other—each compared *Beowulf* with a different, albeit closely related, variant of the "Hand and the Child" story. Then Kittredge<sup>4</sup> in 1903 made an elaborate study of this type of story, noting the likeness to *Beowulf*, but not theorizing further. Brandl<sup>5</sup> noted it again in 1908, and gave a summary of the same version which Laistner had mentioned. The summary is sufficiently striking for a most competent critic<sup>6</sup> to think that the story ought to have been given among the illustrative documents in this book—and I am accordingly giving it in this new edition.

Quite recently (1927) the field has been re-examined by Heinz Dehmer<sup>7</sup>. His essay on *Beowulf's* Fight with Grendel in the light of the modern study of folk-lore emphasizes again the likeness between *Beowulf* and the "Hand and the Child" story. Dehmer's work is important and should attract attention: it is independent of the work of Kittredge, of which Dehmer does not seem to have been aware. Indeed Kittredge's study has been generally neglected by *Beowulf* students—including myself<sup>8</sup>—to

<sup>1</sup> *Das Rätsel der Sphinx*, II, 25. Laistner compares the Icelandic version in Arnason, II, 472, translated by Poestion (34). "Die wesentliche Ähnlichkeit mit dem Grendelabenteuer bedarf keiner Erläuterung."

<sup>2</sup> *History of Early English Literature*, I, 120. Stopford Brooke compares the version in Curtin's *Myths and Folk Lore of Ireland*, p. 270. "I wonder," Stopford Brooke adds, "if the Grendel tale may not be a Celtic story, which in very ancient times became Teutonic."

<sup>3</sup> Herrig's *Archiv*, CIII, 154-6. Cook compares the version in Kennedy's *Legendary Fictions of the Irish Celts*.

<sup>4</sup> Kittredge was making a study of this whole group of stories (*Arthur and Gorlagon* in *Harvard Studies and Notes in Philology and Literature*, VIII, 227 etc.).

<sup>5</sup> *Pauls Grundriss* (2), II, 1, p. 993. Brandl compares the same version as Laistner.

<sup>6</sup> Mr Bruce Dickinson (*Times Literary Supplement*, January 12, 1922, p. 26).

<sup>7</sup> *Die Grendelkämpfe Beowulfs im Lichte moderner Märchenforschung* in *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift*, XVI, 202-18 (1928).

<sup>8</sup> *Mea maxima culpa*. I have to thank the editor of *Harvard Studies* for calling my attention to my omission.

our great loss. Kittredge's essay would have supplied Dehmer with additional analogues, and, together with Lawrence's recent book (published about the same time as Dehmer's article), will call, I think, for considerable modification of his arguments. The best examples of the "Hand and the Child" story at present known are Celtic even when the story is found in an Icelandic folk-tale it is thought to be of Celtic origin. Dehmer's study therefore naturally goes hand in hand with the more elaborate but up to now unpublished researches of von Sydow.

There seem to me to be serious difficulties, but it must remain to be seen how far they can be met when Dehmer and von Sydow state their case more fully. Some of these difficulties I may tentatively suggest.

It is claimed by Dehmer that the story of the daemonic arm, stretched out to grasp some human being, but seized by the hero, and, after a struggle, torn from the shoulder, is a specifically Celtic-Irish form of the Haunted House story<sup>1</sup>, and that the essential feature of Beowulf's fight with Grendel is this seizing and tearing off of the arm<sup>2</sup>.

The answer to Dehmer, as it seems to me, has been already given by Kittredge<sup>3</sup>.

" *The Hand and the Child* belongs, obviously enough, to the type of which the adventure of Beowulf with Grendel is the most famous representative. The similarities are striking, but, before one infers historical or literary connection between the Celtic tale and the Anglo-Saxon epic, there are several phenomena to be reckoned with. The child-stealing motive is no part of the *Beowulf*, nor of a Japanese legend which resembles *Beowulf* in the most striking way, nor of an episode in the *Perceval* which should also be compared. Finally, the loss of the hand and the stealing of the child occur, in combination, in a North American Indian tale from California and in the Welsh *mabinogi* of *Pwyll*. We must put behind us the temptation to genealogize. One fact is clear: the defence of a hall or a hut against the demon that haunts it is a simple theme, to which the theory of 'independent origins' must apply if it ever applies to anything. That the defence should result in the demon's losing his arm seems a not unnatural development at all events, this feature is found in Ireland, in Wales, in England, in Japan, and in California<sup>4</sup>. The other main

<sup>1</sup> p. 208

<sup>2</sup> p. 212

<sup>3</sup> *Arthur and Gorlagon*, pp. 227-31

<sup>4</sup> We may compare also the cutting off of the ghouls' leg in Swynnerton, *Indian Nights' Entertainment*, pp. 358-359. The house-haunting goblin in *Jataka*, II, 155 (Cowell, II, 12), is subdued in a more recondite manner. So is the hand that rises from the sea and steals men in the *Peregrinaggio di tre Giovani*, *Figliuoli del Re di Serendippo*, ed. Gassner, *Erlanger Beiträge*, x, 23-4, 28 ff., 6<sup>e</sup>.

element in our story—the kidnapping of the children—is too commonplace to make any trouble. All manner of uncanny beings are charged with carrying off infants, and everybody knows that the moment of birth, like the moment of death, is a mysterious time and full of strange peril from the darker powers. The genesis of *The Hand and the Child*, then, is not hard to conjecture. It is an easy combination of two motifs, (1) the Defence of the Hall and (2) the Child-stealing Monster, to which . . other familiar bits of folk-lore (the Skilful Companions, for instance, and the One-eyed Giant) have associated themselves. The whole, in a highly elaborated form, has become a part of the Finn cycle, and is used to explain how Finn procured his famous dog Bran."

After all, the vast demon arm is found all over the world—as Kittredge pointed out in his note, it had been seen in England within living memory. As to the cutting or rending off of the arm—there are the instances Kittredge quotes the arm is found in the *Mabinogion*<sup>1</sup> ("after the tumult, behold a claw came through the window into the house and it seized the colt by the mane: then Teirnyon drew his sword and struck off the arm at the elbow"), but it is also found, as York Powell had pointed out, in Japanese legend. A deserted temple near Kiyoto was haunted by a demon. As Watanabe-no-Tsuna approached it, a hand came out of the door and seized him. He slashed off the demon arm and kept it as a trophy, but (and here the resemblance is striking) the demon, in female disguise, rescued the grisly arm<sup>2</sup>. And in the Indian version from California of "The Arm and the Child," the defenders of the child hew off the arm which the ogress has thrust into the house, but she rescues it and runs off with it<sup>3</sup>. And to these examples (quoted by Kittredge) many others might easily be added. In Sicilian story the youngest of three princes has to guard the garden—"at midnight he saw a gigantic arm stretched over the wall, plucking the fruit. He drew his sword, and hewed off the arm"<sup>4</sup>. In Russia, the witch puts her arm through the window of a cottage to sprinkle the inmates

the parallels cited by Huth, *Zt f vergl Litteraturgesch.*, NF, III, 313-14. Cf also the Demon Hand in Miss Burne, *Shropshire Folk Lore*, p. 113. In a Greek *marchen* (Hahn, *Griech u alban Marchen*, II, 50) a Hand robs the king's apple-tree, the prince shoots into a cloud and draws blood (cf Cosquin, *Contes pop de Lorraine*, I, 12) (Kittredge's note).

<sup>1</sup> *Pwyll Prince of Dyved* (transl. by Lady Charlotte Guest, Everyman Library, p. 28).

<sup>2</sup> *An English Miscellany presented to Dr Furnwall*, 1901, pp. 395-6. See also Mitford, *Tales of Old Japan*.

<sup>3</sup> This Californian tale is quoted by Curtin in a note to his *Hero Tales of Ireland*, Boston, 1894, p. 557.

<sup>4</sup> Gonzenbach, *Sicilianische Marchen*, Leipzig, 1870, II, 50.



with Death, and the Cossack hews it off<sup>1</sup> A similar story comes in a ballad from Lithuania. the Plague demon (in the form of a woman) puts her arm through the window to slay her victims—the hero cuts it off<sup>2</sup>. In a medieval Indian story a hero undertakes to watch in the chamber of a princess, all of whose husbands have been slain, night after night. A monster thrusts his arm into the room—the hero hews it off The arm is kept as a trophy, in a way that really does remind us of *Beowulf*. The similarity of this story to *Beowulf* has quite recently been pointed out by Krappe<sup>3</sup>. "

Naturally a motive so widespread and so obvious is brought into connection with innumerable stories, and of course it would be possible to take a number of Celtic stories in which a monstrous arm is hewn or torn off, and, by selecting one detail here and another there, to form a Celtic composite which would show a likeness to the *Beowulf* story But what would that prove? Or, if we limit ourselves to versions of the "Hand and the Child" story, we shall find these versions reminding us of *Beowulf* in various ways—at one time there are adventures in the water, at another a female monster is found which may be held to resemble Grendel's mother But these likenesses in detail cannot conceal the essential difference between *Beowulf* (which is a story of the purging of a hall from monsters that make it uninhabitable) and "The Hand and the Child" (which is a story of the recovery of kidnapped children)

I do not think that any of these "Hand and the Child" stories show anything like such closeness to *Beowulf* as does that "Bear's Son" story which is quoted by Panzer from a French-Flemish source, and of which an abstract is given above (*Jean l'Ourson*)<sup>4</sup>. To this it has been answered<sup>5</sup> that this version owes its likeness to *Beowulf* to the fact that it is a composite. It has added to the ordinary features of the "Bear's Son" tale two others which are not usually found there, namely that the

<sup>1</sup> Ralston, *Russian Folk Tales*, p. 269

<sup>2</sup> Wojcicki, K. W., *Polnische Volksagen und Marchen* (translated by F. H. Lewestam), Berlin, 1839, pp. 61-2

<sup>3</sup> *Eine mittelalterlich-indische Parallele zum Beowulf*, by A. H. Krappe, in the *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift*, xv, 54-8 (1927)

<sup>4</sup> pp. 378-9.

<sup>5</sup> von Sydow, *Beowulf och Bjarke*, pp. 34-5.

monster is routed with the loss of his *arm*, and that he has a female as companion in his den. These resemblances to *Beowulf* are found, one invariably, the other sometimes, in versions of "The Hand and the Child"—for example in the Icelandic version quoted below<sup>1</sup>. *Jean l'Ourson*, then, it would seem, attains its likeness to *Beowulf* by a cunning combination of the "Bear's Son" story and of features drawn from "The Hand and the Child" story—the two folk-tales most nearly akin to *Beowulf*.

I am not prepared to dispute that this may well be so: and it brings us up against a problem which to me appears insoluble. Folk-tales "consist of but few incidents, grouped together in a kaleidoscopic variety of arrangements." These shifting combinations seem to place us at the mercy of chance.

A warning against hasty deductions is afforded by the eleventh-century Indian tale in the *Ocean of Story*<sup>2</sup>, mentioned above. Here comes the incident of the hero defending a chamber and hewing off the monster's arm, subsequently the hero has a second struggle in which he takes his foe by the hair—again like *Beowulf*—though he relents before actually striking off the head. And between these two adventures is an adventure in the sea, which reminds us both of the "Bear's Son" story and also of *Beowulf's* adventures in the mere and in the ocean. Of course there are differences. The Indian hero wins and leaves behind a wife with each adventure, and the story ends with his collecting them all and setting up housekeeping. But what Krappe's article had not prepared me for was this. It will be remembered how *Beowulf's* ocean adventure terminates with the moralization

"wyrd oft nereþ  
unfægne eorl þonne his ellen dēah"

The ocean adventure of the Indian hero leads to exactly the same moral

"For even destiny takes the part of men of distinguished valour"

This *can* only be an accident. Yet if there had been some eleventh-century Celtic document showing equal resemblance,

<sup>1</sup> pp. 491-3.

<sup>2</sup> The *Ocean of Story*, being C. H. Tawney's translation of Somadeva's *Kūṭha Saṁśāra Sāgara*, edited by N. M. Penzer, II, 54-80, *Story of Vidūshaka*

what theories of influence, this way and that, would have been built upon it. Surely this should be a warning of the tricks which the long arm of coincidence can play. What limit is there to the similarities which similar situations can call forth?

Some limit there must be. When in a version of the "Hand and the Child" the monster who is slain on the ocean colours it with his blood, this reminds us of *Beowulf* or *Grettir*. But the thought is an obvious one. It is a different matter when, in *Beowulf* and *Grettir*, not only is the water stained with the blood of the monster, but also this is observed by the watcher or watchers on the shore, and interpreted by him or them to signify the hero's death. Yet even this is a commonplace of story. It is found also in one of the late romantic, invented sagas<sup>1</sup>. And it would be perilous to dogmatize as to how it got there.

But, although the arm of coincidence is as long, and almost as disconcerting, as the arm which the ogre puts through the window, nevertheless no one ventures to suggest that the resemblances between *Beowulf* and the Sandhaugar episode in the *Grettis saga* are a matter of mere coincidence. Every responsible critic is agreed that they cannot be accounted for as stock ideas coming together accidentally in the same order. So, if the arguments put forward above are sound, and prove that the Sandhaugar episode is not derived from *Beowulf*, then it must be an independent version of the same tale. And, granted the existence of this original, then, though the likenesses are not so striking, it would be natural to suppose that the *Samsons saga* and the other tales of waterfall-trolls are connected with it.

To this tale both the "Bear's Son" story and the "Hand and the Child" story show certain resemblances. I do not see that we can say more than that, in the present state of our knowledge.

We may, then, stress the "folk-tale" element in *Beowulf*, and see analogies between our poem and this or that among the mass of "Kinder- und Hausmarchen". But this does not mean that the main story of Beowulf's adventures is trivial or childish, nor, yet that it belongs to the folk, as opposed to the aristocracy.

<sup>1</sup> *Thorsteins saga Víkingssonar*, cap. 23.

## (a) Icelandic Version

From *Íslenskar Þjóðsögur og Æfintýri, safnað hefir Jón Árnason*. Leipzig, 1864, vol. II, pp. 472-3.

Uxu nú bræðurnir upp hjá foreldrum sínum, þángað til þeir voru upp komnir. Þá sögðust þeir vilja fara burtu úr kotinu og reyna til að framast á öðrum stöðum. Foreldrar þeirra leyfðu þeim það. Lögðu þeir nú á stað, og segir ekki af ferðum þeirra, fyrr en þeir koma til kóngsins. Þeir biðja kónginn veturvistar, en segjast vilja fá hana annaðhvort allir, eða einginn. Kóngur sagði, að þeir skyldu fá að vera hjá sér um veturinn, ef þeir vilji vaka yfir og gæta dætra sinna á jólanóttina. Þeir játa því, og verða nú allir hjá kóngi. En svo stóð á, að kóngur hafði átt fimm dætur. En tvær seinustu jólanæturnar höfðu tvær þeirra horfið, sín hvora nótt, úr meyaskemmumni, og var þó vakað yfir þeim. Einginn vissi hvernig þær hefðu horfið, og hvergi fundust þær, þrátt fyrir allar leitir og rannsóknir, sem kóngur hafði látið gjöra. Þegar bræðurnir vissu, hvernig ástatt var, létu þeir kónginn láta smíða nýja meyaskemmu einstaka sér, og mjög rammgjörva. Nú komu jólin. Fóru þá kóngsdæturnar þrjár, sem eptir voru, í skemmunna, og bræðurnir allir fimm. Ætluðu þeir nú að vaka á jólanóttina yfir kóngsdætrunum. En þeir sofnuðu allir, nema hann Velvakandi. Ljós var í skemmumni, og hún harðlæst. Fyrri part nætur sér Velvakandi, að skugga ber á einn skemmugluggann, og því næst seilst inn hönd ógnarlega stór og hrikaleg og yfir rúm einnar kóngsdótturinnar. Þá vekur Velvakandi bræður sína í snatri, og þrífur Velhaldandi í loppuna, sem inn seildist, svo sá gat ekki dregið hana að sér, sem átti, þó hann streitist við. Kom þá Velhoggvandi og hjó af hendina við gluggann. Hljóp þá sá frá, sem úti var, og eltu bræðurnir hann. Gat Velsporrekjandi rakið forin. Komu þeir loks að afarbröttum hómrum, sem eingunn komst upp, nema Velbergklifandi. Hann klifraði upp hamarinn og kastaði festi miður til bræðranna. Dró hann þá svo upp alla. Voru þeir þá staddir við hellismunna stóran. Þeir geingu inn í hann. Þar sáu þeir skessu, hún var grátandi. Þeir spurðu, hvað að henni geingi. Hún var treg til að segja þeim það, en þó gjörði hún það á endanum. Sagði hún, að

karlinn sunn hefði í nótt mist aðra höndina og því lægi svo illa á sér Þeir báðu hana, að huggast, og bera sig vel, því þeir gætu læknað karlinn "En það má eingunn horfa á okkur," segja þeir, "á meðan við erum að lækna, og erum við svo varkárir með leyndardóm okkar að við bindum alla, sem nærri eru, svo eingunn geti komið að okkur á meðan á lækningunni stendur, því þar liggur mikinn við" Buðu þeir nú skessunni að lækna karl hennar undir eins, ef hún leyfði þeim að binda sig Ekki var henni um það, en lét þó til leiðast á endanum Bundu þeir skessuna nú rammlega, og geingu svo inn í hellinn til karlsins Var hann hið ferlegasta tröll, og hófðu þeir 'eingar svenflur á því, nema drápu hann undir eins Að því búnu forú þeir til skessunnar, og drápu hana

### *Translation*

[The five brothers receive their names from an old woman, who has asked and received a drink from them]

The brothers lived with their parents till they were grown up Then they said that they would leave the cottage to push their fortunes elsewhere and their parents gave consent They went away, and nothing is told of their journey till they came to the king They asked the king to be allowed to stay over the winter, but they said that they wished to stay either all, or none The king said that they might stay with him over the winter, if they would watch over his daughters on Yule-night They agreed to that, and so were all with the king.

And so it was, that the king had had five daughters. For two years past one had disappeared each Yule-night, out of the Maiden-Bower, although there had been a guard No one knew how they had vanished, and nowhere could they be found, for all the searchings that the king had caused to be made As soon as the brothers knew how matters stood, they caused the king to build a new Maiden-Bower, standing alone, and very strong Now Yule came The three princesses who were left went into the Bower, and all five brothers they meant to keep watch over the princesses, but they all slept except Wideawake There was a light in the Bower, and it was fast locked Early in the night, Wideawake saw a shadow on the window, and then a terribly

gigantic hand stretched in over the bed of one of the princesses. Then Wideawake roused his brothers quickly, and Holdfast seized the paw which was stretched in, so that its owner could not withdraw it, though he strove hard. Then came Strong-in-the-Blow, and struck off the hand on the window-ledge. Then the creature outside sprang away, and the brothers chased him. Sharp-tracker followed the footsteps. At last they came to some steep rocks, which no one could climb, except Good-Climber: he climbed up the rocks and cast a rope down to his brothers, and so drew them all up. They found themselves by a great mouth of a cave, and went in. There they saw a troll who was weeping. They asked what troubled her. She did not wish to tell them, but in the end she said that her man had lost one hand in the night, and therefore it was so ill with her. They told her to be comforted, for they would cure the man. "But no one must look at us," said they, "whilst we are curing him, and we are so cautious about our mysteries that we bind all who are near, so that no one can come about us whilst we are doing the medicine for a lot depends upon that." So they offered the troll to cure her man at once, if she would let them bind her. She had no fancy for that, but in the end she let them. They bound her fast and so went into the cave to the man. He was a monstrous troll, and the brothers did not beat about the bush, but killed him on the spot. After that they went to the she-troll and killed her.

(b) *Translation of a West Highland Tale*

[Recorded by the Rev J. G. Campbell of Tiree in the *Scottish Celtic Review*, 1885, vol. i, p. 76. The Werewolf speaks.]

. When the time came when [the captain's wife] was to be delivered, they got midwives. She had a male child. When they had arranged about the woman and child, the midwives slept. I was lying below the bed, a big hand came in at the roof of the house, and when I saw the hand coming I sprang and caught the hand, and the hand took me up to the roof of the house, and I took the hand from the shoulder off him, and I took it below the bed, and he put in the other hand, and took the child away. I ran out after him, and followed him to the shore. There was

snow on the ground, and I followed him by his blood I saw an island over opposite to me, and I swam to the island. I went into the cave that he had; and he was asleep in the upper part of the cave, and the child under his arm, and the other two children he had taken with him playing on the floor of the cave I sprang at his throat, and tore his throat for him He had a little skiff in the island, and I got the two children and the babe put into the skiff and hurried home.

## (11) GULLBRA AND SKEGGI

[From *Íslenzkar ljóðsögur og Æfintýri, safnað hefir Jón Arnason* Leipzig, 1862, vol. I, pp. 148-50]

. Kallaði hún þá húskarla sína til sín, og skipaði þeim að flytja sig að gljúfri nokkru og renna sèr þar niður Kvaðst hún leggja vilja þar, er aldrei sæi sól, og aldrei heyrðist klukknaðhljóð En svo er háttað gljúfrinu, að það er foss í gili nokkru móti norðri og hellir inn undir Gljúfrið er afardjúpt og svo iðan undir fossinum Gullbrá gekk í hellinn og lagðist á gullið Þegar Lún var orðin apturganga í fossinum, eyddi hún bæ á Gullbrárhjalla, hældust þar á hjallanum eða í hlöðinni hvorki menn né skepnur lifandi, er rökkva tók, og hefir sauðamonnum jafnan pókt þar reymt síðan, en öll apturganga fór þar af, eptir að kirkja var reist í Hvammi Þar heitir nú Gullbrárgil og Gullbráfoss, er Gullbrá lét færa sig í

Þess er getið í Kristnisögu og víðar, að þá er Þángbrandur prestur fór um Vestfirði, þá kom hann að Hvammi, var máli hans þar illa tekið, húsfreyja kom eigi út, og var inni að blóta, en Skeggi son hennar gjörði gabb að þeim Þángbrandi á meðan

Það er sagt að Skeggi þessi hafi búið leingi í Hvammi og eftir mjög heiðinn átrúnað, var hann fjölkunnugur sjálfur og ramheiðinn eins og móðir hans. Þó hafði hann eigi fjölkynngi svo mikla að hann gæti haft við apturgaungu Gullbrár Drap hún opt fyrir honum smalamenn og fè, er það kom á Gullbrárhjalla Fèll Skeggja þetta illa, því heldur sem honum læk jafnan hugur á að ná kistu Gullbrár úr fossinum. Sagði hann, eins og satt var, hún væri betur geymd hjá sèr, en hjá henni, dauðum draugnum Lagði hann á stað einn góðan veðurdag og bjó sig út til að ganga í Gullbráfoss. Löngr var leið innar eptir dalnum og var farið að

skyggja, er hann kom að fossinum. Húskarlar tveir voru með, og skyldu þeir festum halda. Seig Skeggi í fossinn, og leið ekki á laungu, áður festarmenn heyrðu dýnki mikla, skurk og óhljóð, var svo að heyra, sem harður aðgángur væri undir fossinum. Urðu þeir þá hræddir mjög, og lá við, þeir mundu frá hverfa, en í því gjörði Skeggi þeim bending að draga upp festarnar. Þeir gjörðu það, en í því kista Gullbrár var komin upp á gljúfur-brúnina, varð þeim lítið við, sýndist þeim þá allur dalurinn alt neðan frá Hvammi vera í einu báli, lagði logann milli beggja fjallanna. Urðu þeir þá svo hræddir, að þeir stukkju frá festunum og kistan hlénkaði neður aptur í fossinn. Þegar þeir voru komnir niður af hjallanum, sáu þeir eingin venjubrigði, en staðnæmdust þó eigi fyrri en heima. Skeggi kom laungu síðar þjakaður mjög, var hann blár og blóðugur. Ketil mikinn bar hann á handlegg sèr, fullan af gulli, hafði hann fyllt hann úr kistu Gullbrár, og lesið sig svo á handvaði upp úr gljúfrinu. Hafði aðgángur þeirra Gullbrár og Skeggja orðið harður og lángur, og ekki hafði Skeggi getað eytt apturgaungu Gullbrár, því aldrei varð Gullbrá verri en eptir þetta; drap hún hvern smálamann af öðrum fyrir Skeggja, og fór svo að lokum, að einginn fékkst til fjárgæzlu, því þeir voru allir drepnir.

Af Skeggja er það að segja, að hann varð aldrei samur eptir að hann gekk í fossinn, fékk honum það svo mikils og smalamanna drápið, að hann lagðist í rekkju. En þegar svo var komið, að einginn fékkst til fjárgæzlu, reis Skeggi úr rekkju einn dag, og gekk til kinda sinna. Leið svo dagurinn og nóttin með, að Skeggi kom eigi heim, en seint næsta dag kom hann heim nær dauða en lífi, því einginn þorði að vitja hans. Bar hann þá kistu Gullbrár á bakinu. Sagði hann, að eigi mundi mein verða framar að apturgaungu hennar, en sjálfur mundi hann líka á eptir fara. Lagðist hann þá aptur, og stóð ekki upp framar. Mælti hann svo fyrir, áður en hann létzt, að gulli því, sem í katlinum var, skyldi verja til að kaupa fyrir kirkjuvið svo kirkja yrði reist í Hvammi. Sagðist hann í fyrria sinn, er hann gekk í fossinn og tókst á við Gullbrá, hafa heitið á þór, vin sinn, en hann hafi brugðizt sèr, en in seinna sinn hafi hann, enn þá nauðulegar á vegi staddur, unnið það heit, að leggja fè til Kirkjubýggingar í Hvammi, ef hann frelsaðist úr klóm Gullbrár, við



það kom ljós mikið í glyrnur hennar, svo hann vissi eigi fyrr en hún var orðin að steini þar niðri í gljúfrinu, og sézt draugurinn enn í dag í Gullbrárfossi. Ekki vildi Skeggi að heldur taka trú, eða láta grafa sig að kirkju í Hvamm, heldur sagði hann svo fyrir, að hann yrði heygður þar norður í túninu. Var það gjört, og kista Gullbrár látin undir höfuð honum. Er þar nú steinn mikill, og heitir hann Skeggjasteinn.

#### TRANSLATION OF "GULLBRA AND SKEGGI"

Then she called her house-carls to her, and bade them carry her to a ravine and sink her there. For she said she wished to rest in a place where the sun could not be seen, nor the sound of church bells heard. Now in this ravine there is a waterfall in a chasm, looking to the north, and a cave in the rock behind the waterfall. The ravine is exceeding deep, and beneath the waterfall is a whirlpool. Gullbra went into the cave, and lay down upon her gold. After she began to haunt the waterfall, she laid waste the farmstead at Gullbrarhjáll. there, and on all that mountain side, neither men or live stock were safe, after dusk. Shepherds have always looked upon the place, since then, as haunted but after a church was built at Hvamm all these hauntings ceased. The place where Gullbra caused herself to be put into the river is now called Gullbra's Gill, and Gullbra's Foss.

It is told in the *Kristnsaga*, and elsewhere, that when the priest Thangbrand visited the Western Firths, he came to Hvamm. But there his gospel was ill received: the mistress of the house would not have it, but remained indoors sacrificing, and meantime Skeggi her son mocked Thangbrand and those with him.

This Skeggi is said long to have dwelt at Hvamm, and mightily to have supported the heathen faith, he was himself a wizard, and a rank heathen, like his mother. Yet he had no magic so great that he could resist the hauntings of Gullbra. That displeased him greatly, and all the more because it was ever in his mind to get Gullbra's chest of gold from behind the waterfall. He said (and that was true enough) that the chest would be better with him than with a dead witch like her. So

one day, when the weather was fine, he essayed to prepare himself to go to Gullbra's Foss. It was a long way up the valley, and it was beginning to get dark when he came to the foss. There were two house-carls with him, and they were to hold the rope. Skeggi went down into the foss, and it was not long before the men by the rope heard a great noise, tumult and din—it sounded as if there was a hard struggle going on under the foss. They were much afraid, and were on the point of running away when Skeggi gave them the sign to pull up the rope. They did so, but at the moment when Gullbra's chest came level with the brink of the ravine, they looked, and it seemed to them as if all the dale, all the way up from Hvamm, was in one blaze, reaching from one mountain side to the other. They were so terrified that they ran from the rope, and the chest fell down with a noise back into the foss. As soon as they were come down from the mountain side they could see nothing out of the common—but still they did not stop till they got home.

Skeggi came much later, utterly exhausted—black and blue and bloodstained. He bore on his arm a great kettle full of gold; he had filled it from Gullbra's chest, and had pulled himself up out of the ravine. Hard and long had been his struggle with Gullbra, but he had not put a stop to Gullbra's hauntings, for she had never been worse than she was after that. She killed first one and then another of Skeggi's shepherds, and the end of it was that no one would undertake to look after his flocks, for they all got killed.

Now of Skeggi it must be said that he was never the same man after he went into the foss, that and the death of his shepherds so shook him that he took to his bed. But when it reached the point that no one would look after his flocks, Skeggi rose up one day, and went to his cattle. The day passed, and the night followed, and Skeggi did not come home, but late next day he came home more dead than alive—no one had dared to search for him. He carried Gullbra's chest on his back. He said that there would be no further trouble from her hauntings, but that he himself was likely to follow her—then he took to his bed, and never rose up again. But before he died he gave orders that the gold in the kettle should be laid out in buying timber so that a

eiðrit kom á fót Hyrningi, ok sló þar í æði-verk, svá at hann mátti trautt standast. Nú er at segja frá Þóri ok hans félagum, at þeir æfla sér mikils fjár í hellinum, svá at þat var margra manna fullfengi í gulli ok mǫrgum dýrgripum, er svá sagt, at þeir hafi á þriðja dag verit í Valshelli, þar fann Þórir sverðit Hornhjalta, er Valr hafði borit. Síðan las Þórir sík fyrstr upp ok dró upp fé ok þá féлага sína.

#### TRANSLATION OF EXTRACT FROM THE GULL-ÞÓRIS SAGA

After that they recovered their senses, awoke, and went home. They told Ulf what had happened, and asked him to guide them to the cave of Val. Ulf spoke against the journey, and offered them money not to go, telling them that no one had returned who had essayed it, and he said that it would be reckoned an evil thing that those men should be lost, whom Sigmund his friend had sent to him. But Thorir would in any wise go, and a little later he and his fellows undertook their journey, and went north, coasting Finnmark till they came north over against Blesaberg for so was the mountain called in which was the cave of Val. And it is by the Arctic Sea, and there a mighty river flows through a chasm from the mountain out into the sea. Then Thorir saw that they had come to the place to which he had been directed. They went to the mountain and did as Agnar had told them: they uprooted a great tree and pushed its branches over the ravine and heaped rocks around its root, then they took a rope and fastened it to the branches. Then Thorir bade his companions to go, and each have the wealth that he took. But none of them dared to venture to the cave, though that had been the only danger, and they begged Thorir to turn back. Thorir said, "That cannot now be: it looks as if I should make the venture and have the wealth encumbered with few other claimants." They said they would make no claim on the money, and said he would have enough, if he got it. They found that Thorir was quite another man from what he had been. Thorir took off all his spare clothing: he had the kirtle, gloves, belt and knife, and the slender line which Agnar had given him, he had the javelin with a thong, which his father had given him. He went along the tree and hurled his javelin over

the river, and it stuck fast in the wood on the other side. After that he let himself down by the rope, and let the line pull him from the cliff, under the foss

And when Ketilbjorn saw that, he said that he would go with Thorir and share his luck, then he let himself down with the rope Thorhall Kinnarson too said he would go, and Thrand the Tall said that Sigmund should never learn that he did not dare to follow those to whom he had promised backing Thorir had now reached the cave, and he drew each of the others to him, as they came from above A promontory jutted into the lake in front of the foss, Bjorn Béruson and Hyrning went onto it, and so up below the foss, they had a tent there on the promontory, for no one could go near the foss by reason of the spray

Thorir and his companions kindled a light in the cave, and went till a wind blew against them and quenched the light Then Thorir called on Agnar for help, and at once there came a great ray of light from the door of the cave, and they went for a while with the light till they heard the hissing of the dragons But as soon as the ray of light reached the dragons they all slept, and the light did not fail till it lighted up the dragons and the gold they were lying on Then they saw where there were swords with the hilts projecting then quickly Thorir and his companions grasped the swords, leapt upon the dragons, and stabbed them to the heart under the shoulders Thorir managed to take the helm from the largest dragon at the same moment that dragon seized Thrand the Tall and flew with him out of the cave, and then each after the other, and fire sprang from their mouths with much poison Now those who were outside saw a glow from the foss, they leapt from the tent, and the dragons flew up from the foss, and Bjorn saw that one of the dragons had a man in his mouth, they thought then for certain that all the men who had gone into the cave must have been killed The greatest dragon flew furthest, the one who had the man in his mouth, and when they flew up over the promontory, Bjorn rushed up onto the precipice and stabbed that dragon with his inlaid spear But when the dragon received the wound, there rushed from it so much blood into Bjorn's face that he was killed forthwith, and the blood and poison fell on the foot of

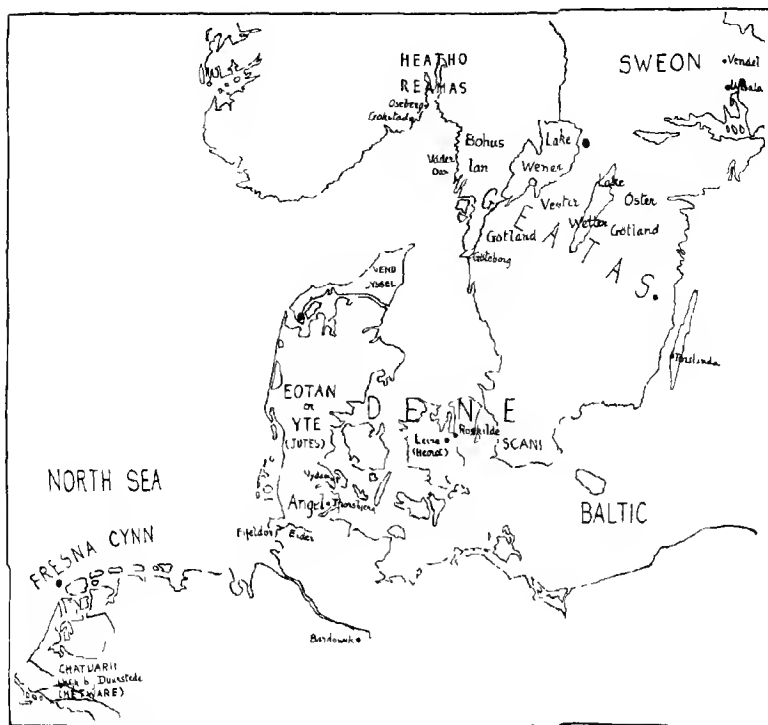
Hyrning, and gave him furious pain, so that he could scarcely stand.

Now it must be told of Thorir and his fellows that they got much wealth in the cave, so that there was booty enough for many men in gold and various treasures, and it is said, that they remained in Val's cave till the third day there Thorir found the sword Hornhjalti, which Val had borne. Afterwards Thorir hauled himself up first, and then drew up the wealth and his fellows

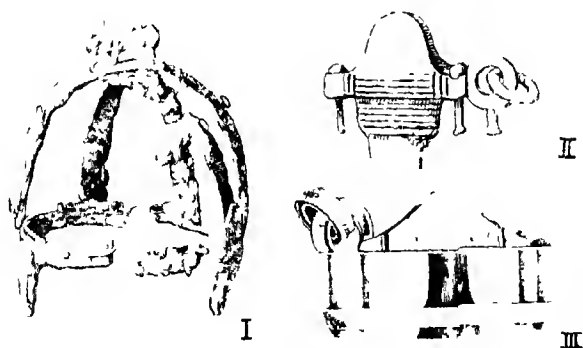
(IV) SAMSON

[From the *Samson Fagres saga*, p. 11, in *Nordiska Kampa Dater*, ed. E. J. Björner, Stockholm, 1737.]

Enn a methann their voru thetta at tala, stoth Samson a brunni vith fossinn, oc toku their nu hondum samann, oc i thvi finnur Samson ei fyrri til, enn tækit var um hans bætha foetur, oc var honum kipt ofann i fossinn. Er thar kóminn ein Trollkona, oc hefur hann ecki afi vith hana, enn thegar hann kemur hondum vith, sviptast thau, oc koma nithur a grunn, oc skilur hann, at hun muni ætla at færa hann vith grunnit. Oc bryst hann um, oc getur nath tagulknifi, er Valntina Kongs dottir hafði gefit horum, oc setur hann fyrir hennar briost, oc ristir a henni allann kvithunn, sva at hlaupa innifinn, verthur a inn sem bloth at sia. Er Samson nu buit vith at kafna, verthur hann nu laus oc kafar undir ithuna, finnur hann thar muni hellir nockur, oc skriður upp undir bergit, er hann nu sva mattdreiginn, at hann verthur nu leingi thar at liggja, athur enn hann mætti sig hræra. Enn er hann rettist vith, vindur hann klæthi sin, enn sithann kannar hann hellirinn, oc ætlar hann at hann muni alldrei komast fyrir hans enda. Oc nu finnur hann einn afhellir, sier hann thar mukinn varning oc marga gotha gripi af gulli oc silfri. Sæng var thar agiæta væn, meth fortialldi oc agiætum blæum. Stag var thar oc knappar af gulli a endunum, thar voru oc abreid morg klæthi. Thar ser hann kyrtul oc mottul Valintinu Kongs dottir, thar sier hann oc hennar diasn, mittasband oc tigulsilgo. Hann tekur her af slíkt sem honum syndist, oc geingur sithann hellirinn a enda. Finnur hann nu eina steinhurth, var hun hnig-ginn aptur enn ecki læst, oc geck hann thar ut, vissi hann thau



SOUTHERN SCANDINAVIA IN THE SIXTH CENTURY



ENGLISH BOAR-HELMET AND RING-SWORDS

- I Benty Grange Helmet (Roch Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua*, II, 238)
- II Pommel of Ring-Sword from Faversham, Kent (*Ibid.* 31, 139)
- III Pommel of Ring-Sword from Gilton, Kent (*Archaeologia*, XXX, 132)



ecki hvort hann skyldi fara (snua). Oc a hinum fiortha deigi thathann fann hann fyrir ser breidar gotur, geck hann tha i bygthir manna, var honum tha visat til sva at hann fann Finn-laug Jarl. Jarl fagnathi honum vel, oc spurthi hvo'su honum hefthi farist, hann sagthi honum af hit hosasta, oc syndi honum gripina, oc thotti them likast at hun mundi dauth vera. Litlu sithar siglir Samson til Irlands, oc fann Garlant Kongs, oc sagthi honum af sinum ferthum oc synir honum gripina, oc vertha their a thath sættur, at hun muni dauth vera

[A translation of this will be found above, pp 456-7. A somewhat different text of this passage, from the Reykjavik edition, with translation, is given in Lawrence's *Beowulf and Epic Tradition*, pp 189, 318.]



## ADDITIONAL NOTES

p 4 Antoine Thomas, in the *Archivum Latinatum Medii Aevi*, 1924 (1925), pp 232-45, gives an account of a third manuscript of the *Liber Monstrorum*, at Leyden (*Is Voss cod lat oc No 60*) Thomas dates the handwriting of this manuscript c 900 The name of Hygelac is here given correctly *De Hyglaco* Thomas assigns the composition of the treatise to England, and dates it c 700

p 9 The king, after his election by the Swedes, had to make a progress through the provinces (the *Erikskata*) and be received at each Thing See *Loi de Vestrogothie (Westgota-Lagen) traduite et annotée par L Beauchet*, Paris, 1894, pp 200-2, p 434, R Kjellén, *Om Erikskatan*, Upsala, 1889, p 7, C J Schlyter, *Juridiska Afhandlingar*, Upsala, 1836, pp 20-1, Montelius in vol 1 of *Sveriges historia*, 1877, p 462

The right of confirming the king is thus recorded in the Law-book of the Vestergotar "The Swedes have the right to elect and also to reject the king . . . A Thing of all the Gotar must be called before him When the king comes to the Thing, he must swear that he will be faithful to all the Gotar, and that he will not break the righteous laws of our land (*sik allum gotum trolekan sværia at han skal eigh ræt lagh a landi vorn bryta*) After that the law-man is first to declare him king "

This could be more than a mere formality, apparently We read that "the tenth king was Rangvaldr who was proud and haughty and as he was wanting in respect to all the Vestergotar, he fell by a shameful death "

p 17. For the reasons for attributing the mounds at Leire to the Stone or Bronze Ages, see Olrik, *Helledigtning*, I, 191 (*Heroic Legends*, p 328) and the authorities there quoted

p 19 The connection of the name Roskilde with Hrothgar remains disputed That the element *Ros* in other place names signifies "Horse" is urged by J B Løffler (*Les Pierres Tumulaires de la Cathédrale de Roskilde*, 1885, p xiv) In the later Middle Ages Roskilde was often interpreted as "Spring of Roses " A fifteenth-century bishop of Roskilde is addressed *Tu nomen clarum tractas de fonte rosarum* (Langebek, *Scriptores*, viii, 473) The fourteenth-century town seal shows three roses swimming in a fountain (see Henry Petersen, *Hvor læa Kongsgaarden i Roskilde*, in *Historisk Tidsskrift*, Kjøbenhavn ((Sjette Række), 1890, II, 353-4) On the other hand, the connection with Hrothgar is not impossible Roskilde, like the *Roe* of Saxo, must then be referred to the form *Hroi(r)*, which we must regard as a shortened form of *Hroðgeirr* or *Hrourr* (= *Hroðgar*) Some, however, regard *Hroi(r)* as a distinct name, derived from *Hróðvér* But see Bjorkman, *Eigennamen im Beowulf*, 1920, p 74

p 34 Six of the drawings are certainly from the pen of Matthew Paris, and his authorship of the *Vitz* is being maintained afresh by Prof Gruner and others See J Schick, *Die Urquelle der Offa-Konstanze-Sage*, in *Britannica (Max Förster zum sechzigsten Geburtstag)*, 1929, p 41 For the six drawings, see M R James, *The Drawings of Matthew Paris*, in *The Fourteenth Volume of the Walpole Society*, 1925-6, pp 21-3

p. 47 Of course the long winter nights give the uncanny visitor scope for his activities and Boer is right in pointing out that, in certain allied stories, it is at Yule that the ghost-demon appears. But Boer agrees (*English Studies*, Amsterdam, v, 106) that we cannot build on this any theory of a divine helper such as Kemble and Mullenhoff imagined.

p. 94 *ēalond* probably does not mean "island" Boer (*English Studies*, v, 113) disputes this. But the use of *ēalond*, *izlond* to signify simply land near (but not necessarily quite surrounded by) water is well authenticated in Old English. It survives in names of peninsulas, "Portland Island," "Hayling Island", as late as the sixteenth century Norway could be called an "island". The word *ēalond* would suit excellently the great tract of land almost surrounded by the sea, by the Gotaelf and by Lake Wenar, where we may imagine the palace of Beowulf as standing.

p. 101 Dr H. V. Routh objects to my argument that the scenery around Leire does not show that remarkable likeness to the Grendel-lake which Sarrazin claimed for it.

"Sarrazin has argued that Grendel's lair was really to be found in Roskilde fiord, whereat Prof. Chambers objects that though there may have been fewer cultivated fields and more beech trees, 'the scenery may have been less tame, but can hardly have been less peaceful'. The scenery can well have been immeasurably less peaceful. The professor forgets the effect of uncleared forest growth. Even now Canadian forests present in places an indescribably weird and disquieting appearance, with their tangle of undergrowth and fallen trees, and these jungles can be found in quite civilized districts, not far from established townships" (*God, Man and Epic Poetry*, II, 19).

But the grave-mounds, going back to the Stone Age, show that the country round Leire had already been inhabited for thousands of years in Hrothgar's day. The comparison with uncleared Canadian forest, even in places where townships are now being pushed up near to that uncleared forest, is not quite to the point. The district round Leire may well have been much more thickly inhabited in the sixth century, when Leire was the centre of a great kingdom, than it is to-day, when Leire is an insignificant village. Dr Routh goes on (following the description in *Beowulf* itself) to speak of Grendel's lair as surrounded by "wolf-cliffs," "bleak crags," "caverns". Does he seriously argue that cliffs, crags and caverns were to be found in this district about A.D. 500? If not, what is the use of trying to defend Sarrazin's argument that the description in *Beowulf* shows a local knowledge such as argues a Scandinavian poet who knew the locality?

p. 177 Mr Bruce Dickinson suggests that *trog* should be rendered trencher "in which sense the word is still preserved in the strongly Scandinavian dialect of Shetland". Anyway the *trog* is part of the regular equipment of a witch wife bent on destroying heroes. See *Heimskringla, Saga of Harold Hardrada*, cap. 83, *Laxdæla Saga*, cap. 48.

p. 201 Another copy of this roll is in the library of Canterbury University College, Christchurch, New Zealand. An edition and translation of it has been published by Prof. Arnold Wall, *Handbook to the Maude Roll*, Whitcombe and Tombs, Ltd., 1919. I am indebted to Prof. Wall for drawing my attention to this copy.

p 252 "The warrior who put the sword into Hengest's bosom was Hunlafing" But Prof Malone has urged that the poet of *Beowulf* "never uses a patronymic except in connexion with the true name," and that therefore we must, with Olrik, interpret Hunlafing as the name of a sword, not as an (otherwise unknown) son of Hunlaf. See his article in *M L N.* XLII, 300-4.

p 306 *Grendles mere* Mr G M Young writes.

"*Grendles mere* in the Ham Landbook may safely be added to the number of marshy sites. The region in which it lies is known to geologists as the Vale of Ham, and the mere itself can be placed exactly, in a valley bottom, now streamless but still spongy after rain. The northern boundary of Ham running down this valley makes a small right-angled turn a little to the east of Lower Spray Copse. At this point, ½ inch to the right of the *y* in *Spray* (1 inch Ordnance Map), a kink in the hedge and the colour of the ground indicate the site of a filled up pond. Two tracks, coming from the east and the north (the latter is called Oddyle Lane) and converging at the site, suggest that the mere continued in use in mediæval times as a watering place for cattle. It is known that this district is much drier now than in early times under wetter conditions the valley must have been boggy, with a rivulet running down it after rain and forming small pools—*wudu mere* and *grendles mere*."

pp 309-10 Ekwall (*English River-Names*, 1928, p 186) derives the Grindle or Greendale Brook from *grēne* "green" and *dæl* "valley". He agrees that the name is not likely to be derived from *grand*, "gravel," sand, "while I must take leave to differ from Chambers in his statement that 'there is no particular suggestion of sand or gravel about this modest little brook'." Which shows that even personal inspection of details does not always produce unanimity. See also Zachrisson in *Miscellany offered to Otto Jespersen*, p 42.

p 332, footnote 3 Ekwall (*Angha*, *Beiblatt*, XXXIII, 181) argues that *Gotland* is a quite satisfactory way for Alfred in Orosius to have rendered the word *Jölland*, as he heard it from the Norseman Ohthere. "He could hardly," writes Ekwall, "use the spelling *Geotland*, for that would be read with a diphthong *eo*." Ekwall's point is that the spelling *zeo* in Old English was not merely a scribal way of expressing *jō*, hut, often at least, did signify a real diphthongization.

My point is that when Ohthere spoke of Yule he would say *jol* but Alfred would write *zeol*, and by exactly the same process I should expect that Alfred would render Ohthere's *Jotland* by *Geotland*, writing (and probably pronouncing) a diphthong. For, as Englishmen who have to struggle with the impurity of their vowels know, it is very difficult to pronounce a pure vowel in a place where we habitually diphthongize it. It is of course possible that Alfred had a better ear than I have given him credit for, and in that case would have written, as Ekwall and Bjorkman argue, *Gotland*.

If so, there remains no difficulty whatsoever in the interpretation of *Gotland* as *Jutland*, I did not wish to shirk what could reasonably be held to be a difficulty, but, if there is none, so much the better for my argument.

p 363 "the ship as it now stands consists of the original woodwork." This is no longer true, as it has now proved possible, from the fragments discovered, to reconstruct the prow.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF *BEOWULF* AND *FINNSBURG*

I remember it was with extreme difficulty that I could bring my master to understand the meaning of the word *opinion*, or how a point could be disputable, because reason taught us to affirm or deny only where we are certain, and beyond our knowledge we cannot do either. So that controversies, wranglings, disputes, and positiveness in false or dubious propositions are evils unknown among the *Houyhnhnms*. He would laugh that a creature pretending to reason should value itself upon the knowledge of other people's conjectures, and in things, where that knowledge, if it were certain, could be of no use.

I have often since reflected what destruction such a doctrine would make in the libraries of Europe.

*Gulliver's Travels*

The following items are (except in special cases) not included in this bibliography

- (a) Articles dealing with single passages in *Beowulf*, or two passages only, in cases where they have already been recorded under the appropriate passage in the footnotes to the text, or in the glossary, of my revision of Wyatt's edition
- (b) Articles dealing with the emendation or interpretation of single passages, in cases where such emendations have been withdrawn by their author himself
- (c) Purely popular paraphrases or summaries
- (d) Purely personal protests (e.g., *PBB* XXI, 436), however well founded, in which no point of scholarship is any longer involved

Books dealing with other subjects, but illustrating *Beowulf*, present a difficulty. Such books may have a value for *Beowulf* students, even though the author may never refer to our poem, and have occasionally been included in previous bibliographies. But, unless *Beowulf* is closely concerned, these books are not usually mentioned below. Such enumeration, if carried out consistently, would clog a bibliography already all too bulky. Thus, Siecke's *Drachenkämpfe* does not seem to come within the scope of this bibliography, because the author is not concerned with *Beowulf*'s dragon.

Obviously every general discussion of Old English metre must concern itself largely with *Beowulf* for such treatises the student is referred to the section *Metrik* of Brandl's Bibliography (*Pauls Grdr.*), and, for Old English heroic legend in general, to the Bibliography of my edition of *Widsith*.

Many scholars, e.g. Heinzel, have put into their reviews of the books of others, much original work which might well have formed the material for independent articles. Such reviews are noted as "weighty," but it must not be supposed that the reviews not so marked are negligible, unless of some value to scholarship, reviews are not usually mentioned below.

The title of any book, article or review which I have not seen and verified is denoted by the sign †

## SUMMARY

- § 1 Periodicals
- § 2 Bibliographies
- § 3 The *ms* and its transcripts
- § 4 Editions
- § 5 Concordances, *etc*
- § 6 Translations (including early summaries)
- § 7 Textual criticism and interpretation
- § 8 Questions of literary history, date and authorship *Beowulf* in the light of history, archæology<sup>1</sup>, heroic legend, mythology and folk-lore
- § 9 Style and Grammar
- § 10 Metre

## § 1 PERIODICALS

The periodicals most frequently quoted are

- A f d A* = Anzeiger für deutsches Alterthum Berlin, 1876 *etc*  
*A f n F* = Arkiv för nordisk Filologi Christiania, Lund, 1883 *etc* Quoted according to the original numbering  
*Anglia* Halle, 1878 *etc*  
*Archiv* = Herrigs Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen Elberfeld, Braunschweig, 1846 *etc* Quoted according to the original numbering  
*D L Z* = Deutsche Literatur-Zeitung Berlin, 1880 *etc*  
*Engl Stud* = Englische Studien Heilbronn, Leipzig, 1877 *etc*  
*Germania* Wien, 1856-92  
*I F* = Indogermanische Forschungen Strassburg, 1892 *etc*  
*J (E) G Ph* = Journal of (English and) Germanic Philology Bloomington, Urbana, 1897 *etc*  
*Lit Cbl* = Literarisches Centralblatt Leipzig, 1851 *etc*  
*Literaturblatt* für germanische und romanische Philologie Heilbronn, Leipzig, 1880 *etc*  
*M. L N* = Modern Language Notes Baltimore, 1886 *etc* Quoted by the page, not the column  
*M L R* = The Modern Language Review Cambridge, 1906 *etc*  
*Mod Phil* = Modern Philology Chicago, 1903 *etc*  
*Morsbachs Studien* zur englischen Philologie Halle, 1897 *etc*  
*P B B* = Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache u Litteratur Halle, 1874 *etc*  
*Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* = Publications of the Modern Language Association of America Baltimore, 1889 *etc*  
*Z f d A* = Zeitschrift für deutsches Alterthum Leipzig, Berlin, 1841 *etc*  
*Z f d Ph* = Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie Halle, 1869 *etc*  
*Z f d G* = Zeitschrift für die österreichischen Gymnasien Wien, 1850 *etc*  
 The titles of other periodicals are given with sufficient fulness for easy identification

<sup>1</sup> Archæological works bearing less directly upon *Beowulf*, are enumerated, in *Appendix F*, that enumeration is not repeated here.

## § 2 BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Bibliographies have been published from time to time as a supplement to *Anglia*, also in the *Jahresbericht über german Philologie*, by Garnett in his *Translation*, 1882 etc., and will be found in

Wulker's *Grundriss* (with very useful abstracts), 1885, pp 245 etc

Clark Hall's *Translation*, 1901, 1911

Holthausen's *Beowulf*, 1906, 1909, 1913, 1919

Brandl's *Englische Literatur*, in *Pauls Grdr* (2), II, 1015-24 (full, but not so reliable as Holthausen's)

Sedgefield's *Beowulf*, 1910, 1913 (carefully selected)

An excellent critical bibliography of *Beowulf* translations up to 1903 is that of Tinker see under § 6, *Translations*

## § 3 THE MS AND ITS TRANSCRIPTS

*Beowulf* fills ff 129 (132)<sup>a</sup> to 198 (201)<sup>b</sup> of the British Museum MS *Cotton Vitellius A XV*

*Beowulf* is written in two hands, the first of which goes to l 1939 This hand was identified by Prof Sedgefield (*Beowulf*, *Introduction*, p xiv, footnote) with that of the piece immediately preceding *Beowulf* in the MS, and by Mr Kenneth Sisam, in 1916, with that of all three immediately preceding pieces the *Christopher* fragment, the *Wonders of the East*, and the *Letter of Alexander on the Wonders of India* The pieces preceding these, however (the *Soliloquies of S Augustine*, the *Gospel of Nicodemus*, *Salomon and Saturn*), are certainly not in the same hand, and their connection with the *Beowulf*-MS is simply due to the bookbinder

From l 1939 to the end, *Beowulf* is written in a second hand, thicker and less elegant than the first This second hand seems to be clearly identical with that in which the poem of *Judith*, immediately following *Beowulf*, is written This was pointed out by Sievers in 1872 (*ZfdA* xv, 457), and has never, I think been disputed (cf Sisam, p 337, Forster, p 31) Nevertheless the two poems have probably not always formed one book For the last page of *Beowulf* was apparently once the last page of the volume, to judge from its battered condition, whilst *Judith* is imperfect at the beginning And there are trifling differences, e.g. in the frequency of the use of contractions, and the form of the capital H

This identity of the scribe of the second portion of *Beowulf* and the *Judith* scribe, together with the identity (pointed out by Mr Sisam) of the scribe of the first portion of *Beowulf* and the scribe of the three preceding works, is important A detailed comparison of these texts will throw light upon the characteristics of the scribes

That the three preceding works are in the same hand as that of the first *Beowulf* scribe was again announced, independently of Mr Sisam, by Prof Max Forster, in 1919 Sievers had already in 1871 arrived at the same result (see Forster, p 35, note) but had not published it

It seems to me in the highest degree improbable that the *Beowulf* MS has lost its ending, as Prof Forster thinks (pp 82, 88) Surely nothing could be better than the conclusion of the poem as it stands in the MS that the

casual loss of a number of leaves could have resulted in so satisfactory a conclusion is, I think, not conceivable. Moreover, the scribe has crammed as much material as possible into the last leaf of *Beowulf*, making his lines abnormally long, and using contractions in a way he does not use them elsewhere. The only reason for this must be to avoid running over into a new leaf or quire: there could be no motive for this crowded page if the poem had ever run on beyond it.

There is pretty general agreement that the date of the *Beowulf* MS is about the year 1000, and that it is somewhat more likely to be before that date than after.

The *Beowulf* MS was injured in the great Cottonian fire of 1731, and the edges of the parchment have since chipped away owing to the damage then sustained. Valuable assistance can therefore be derived from the two transcripts now preserved in the Royal Library of Copenhagen, made in 1787, when the MS was much less damaged.

A Poema anglosaxonicum de rebus gestis Danorum fecit exscribi  
Londini A D MDCCLXXXVII Grimus Johannis Thorkelin

B Poema anglosaxonicum de Danorum rebus gestis exscriptum Grimus  
Johannis Thorkelin Londini MDCCLXXXVII

The first description of the *Beowulf* MS is in 1705 by H. WANLEY (*Librorum Septentrionalium Catalogus*, pp. 218-19, Oxoniæ, forming vol. II of Hickes' *Thesaurus*). Two short extracts from the MS are given by Wanley. He describes the poem as telling of the wars quæ Beowulfus quidam Danus, ex regio Scyl-dingorum stirpe ortus, gessit contra Suecicæ regulos. The text was printed by THORKELIN in 1815, and the MS was collated by CONYBEARE, who in his *Illustrations* (1826) issued 19 pages of corrections of Thorkelin. These corrections were further corrected by J. M. KEMBLE in 1837 (Letter to M. Francisque Michel, in Michel's *Bibliothèque Anglo-Saxonne*, pp. 20, 51-8). Meantime Kemble's text had been issued in 1833, based upon his examination of the MS. The MS was also seen by THORPE (in 1830). Thorpe's text was not published till 1855 and by GRUNDTVIG (pub. 1861). A further collation was that of E. KOLBING in 1876 (*Zur Beowulf-handschrift*, *Archiv*, LVI, 91-118). Kolbing's collation proves the superiority of Kemble's text to Grundtvig's. None for his transcripts of the MS were those of Holder, Wulker and Zupitza.

1881 HOLDER, A. *Beowulf*. Bd. I. Abdruck der Handschrift. Freiburg u. Tübingen (†1881, from collation made in 1875). Reviews Kolbing, *Engl. Stud.* VII, 488; Kluge, *Literaturblatt*, 1883, 178; Wulker, *Lit. Cbl.* 1882, 1035-6.

1882 2 Aufl.

1895 3 Aufl. Reviews Dieter, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, VI, 260-1; Brandl, *ZfdA* XL, 90.

1881 WULKER, R. P. *Beowulf*. Text nach der Handschrift, in Grein's *Bibliothek*, I, 18-148.

1882 ZUPITZA, J. *Beowulf*. Autotypes of the unique Cotton MS. Vitellus A. IV, with a transliteration and notes. *Early English Text Society*, London. Reviews Trautmann, *Anglia*, VII, *Anzeiger*, 41; Kolbing, *Engl. Stud.* VII, 482 etc.; Varnhagen, *AfdA* X, 304; Sievers, *Lit. Cbl.* 1884, 124.

Further discussion of the ms by

- 1890 DAVIDSON, C Differences between the scribes of Beowulf *M L N* v, 43-4, McCUMPH, C, criticizes the above, *M L N* v, 123, reply by DAVIDSON, *M L N* v, 189-90
  - 1910 LAMB, EVELYN H "Beowulf" Hemming of Worcester's *Notes and Queries*, Ser xi, vol i, p 26 (Worthless An assertion, unsupported by any evidence, that both the hands of the Beowulf ms are those of Hemming of Worcester, who flourished c 1096)
  - 1916 SISAM, K The Beowulf Manuscript *M L R* xi, 335-7 (Very important Gives results of a scrutiny of the other treatises in *MS Vitellius A XV* (see above) and shows, among other things, that the Beowulf ms, before reaching the hands of Sir Robert Cotton, was (in 1563) in those of Lawrence Nowell, the Elizabethan Anglo-Saxon scholar)
  - 1919 FÖRSTER, MAX Die Beowulf-Handschrift, Leipzig, *Berichte der Sachs Akad der Wissenschaften*, Bd 71 (An excellent and detailed discussion of the problems of the ms, quite independent of that of Mr Sisam, whose results it confirms) Review Schroder, *A f d A* xl, 85-6
  - 1920 RYFINS, S I The Beowulf Codex *Mod Phil* xvii, 541-8 (promising further treatment of the problems of the ms)
- The ms of Finnsburg has been lost See above, p 245

#### § 4 EDITIONS OF BEOWULF AND FINNSBURG

- 1705 HICKES, G *Linguarum Vett Septentrionalium Thesaurus* Oxoniae (Vol i, 192-3, text of Finnsburg Fragment)
- 1814 CONYBEARE, J J The Battle of Finsborough, in Brydges' *British Bibliographer*, vol iv, pp 261-7, No xv (Text, Latin translation, and free verse paraphrase in English some brief notes)
- 1815 THORKELIN, G J De Danorum rebus gestis seculi iii et iv Poëma Danicum dialecto Anglo-Saxonica (Copenhagen, with Lat transl) Reviews See § 7, *Textual Criticism*, 1815, Grundtvig, also *Dansk Literatur-Tidende*, 1815, 401-32, 437-46, 461-2 (defending Thorkelin against Grundtvig), *Iduna*, vii, 1817, 133-59, *Monthly Review*, lxxxii, 1816, 516-23, *Jenaische Literatur Zeitung*, 1816, *Ergänzungsblätter*, 353-65 (summary in Wulker's *Grundriss*, p 252), Outzen in *Kieler Blätter*, 1816, see § 8, below
- 1817 RASK, R K *Angelsaksisk sproglære* Stockholm (pp 163-6 contain Beowulf, ll 53-114, with commentary)
- 1820 Text of Finnsburg, given by GRUNDTVIG in *Byowulfs Drape*, pp xl-xlv
- 1826 Text of Finnsburg, and of large portions of Beowulf, given in CONYBEARE'S *Illustrations* See § 5, *Translations*
- 1833 KEMBLE, J M Beowulf, the Travellers Song, and the Battle of Finnesburch, edited with a glossary and an historical preface London 1835 Second edit
- 1847 SCHALDEMOSE, F Beowulf og Scopas Widsið med Oversættelse Kjøbenhavn (Follows Kemble's text of 1835 Text and transl of Finnsburg also given, pp 161-4) 1851, Reprinted
- 1849 KLIPSTEIN, L F *Analecta Anglo-Saxonica* New York (Selections from Beowulf, ii, 227-61 Text of Finnsburg, 426-7)
- 1850 ETTMULLER, L *Engla and Seaxna scopas and bōceras* Quedlinburg u Leipzig (Text of large portions of Beowulf, with Finnsburg, pp 95-131)
- 1855 THORPE, B The A S poems of Beowulf, the scop or gleeman's tale, and Finnesburg, with a literal translation ..Oxford 1875, Reprinted



- 1857 GREIN, C W. M. Bibliothek der angelsächsischen Poesie, I. Göttingen (pp 255-343, Beowulf, Ueberfall in Finnsburg)  
1861-4. Bd III, IV. Sprachschatz
- 1861 RIEGER, M. Alt- u. angelsächsisches Lesebuch. Gießen (Der Kampf zu Finnsburg, pp 61-3 aus dem Beowulf, 63-82)
- 1861 GRUNDTWIG, N F S. Beowulfes Beorh eller Bjovulfs-Drapen. Kjøbenhavn, London (The Finnsburg Fragment is inserted in the text of Beowulf, after l 1106)
- 1863 HEYNE, M. Beowulf, mit ausführlichem Glossar. Paderborn (Anhang. Der Ueberfall in Finnsburg) Reviews Grein, *Lit Cbl* 1864, 137-8, Holtzmann, *Germania*, VIII, 506-7  
1868. 12 Aufl. Review Rieger, *Z f d Ph* II, 371-4  
1873. 3 Aufl. Review Sievers, *Lit Cbl* 1873, 662-3, brief but severe  
1879. 4 Aufl. [in this, Kolbing's collation of 1876 was utilized, see p 82] Reviews Brenner, *Engl Stud* IV, 135-9, Gering, *Z f d Ph* XII, 122-5
- 1867 GREIN, C W M. Beowulf, nebst den Fragmenten Finnsburg u. Valdere. Cassel u. Göttingen
- 1875 ETTMÜLLER, L. Carmen de Beowulfi, Gautarum regis, rebus praeclare gestis atque interitu, quale fuerit antequam in manus interpolatoris, monachi Vestsaenonici, inciderat (Zurich University Programme The additions of the "interpolator" being omitted, the edition contains 2896 lines only) Reviews Schonbach, *A f d A* III, 36-46, †Sucher, *Jenaer Literatur-Zeitung*, XLVII, 1876, 732
- 1876 ARNOLD, T. Beowulf, with a translation, notes and appendix. London. Reviews (unfavourable) Sweet, *Academy*, X, 1876, 588, Wulker, *Lit. Cbl* 1877, 665-6, and *Anglia*, I, 177-86
- 1879 WULKER, R P. Kleinere angelsächsische Dichtungen. Halle, Leipzig (Finnsburg, pp 6-7)
- 1883 MÖLLER, H. Das altenglische Volksepos in der ursprünglichen strophischen Form I Abhandlungen II Texte. Kiel (Containing only those parts of the Finn-story and of Beowulf which Möller regarded as "genuine," in strophic form) Reviews Heinzel, *A f d A* X, 215-33 (important), Schonbach, *Z f d G* XXXV, 37-46
- 1883 WULKER, R P. Das Beowulfshed, nebst den kleineren epischen Stücken. Kassel (In the second edit of Grein's *Bibliothek der ays. Poesie*) Review Kolbing, *Engl Stud* VII, 482 etc
- 1883 HARRISON, J A and SHARP, R. Beowulf. Boston, U S A († 1883, on the basis of Heyne's edition, with Finnsburg) Reviews York Powell, *Academy*, XXVI, 1884, 220-1, reply by Harrison, 308-9, by York Powell, 327, Kolbing, *Engl Stud* VII, 482, Bright, *Literaturblatt*, 1884, 221-3  
1892. Third edit  
1894. Fourth edit. Reviews Wulker, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, V, 65-7, Glode, *Engl Stud* XX, 417-18
- 1884 HOLDER, A. Beowulf, II Berichtigter Text u. Wörterbuch. Freiburg u. Tübingen. Reviews York Powell, *Academy*, XXVI, 1884, 220-1, Wulker, *Lit Cbl* 1885, 1008-9, Krüger, *Literaturblatt*, 1884, 468-70  
1899. 2 Aufl. [with suggestions of Kluge and Cosijn] Reviews Trautmann, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, X, 257, Wulker, *Engl Stud* XXX, 278-9, Holthausen, *Literaturblatt*, 1900, 60-2 (important corrections)
- 1888 HEYNE, M and SOCIN, A. [Fifth edit of Heyne's text] Paderborn u. Münster. Reviews Koepfel, *Engl Stud* XIII, 466-72, Heinzel, *A f d A* XV, 189-94, Sievers, *Z f d Ph* XXI, 354-65 (very important corrections); Schroer, *Literaturblatt*, 1889, 170-1

- 1898 6 Aufl Reviews Trautmann, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, x, 257, Holthausen, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, x, 265, Sarrazin, *Engl Stud* xxviii, 408-10; Jantzen, *Archiv*, ciii, 175-6
- 1903 7 Aufl Reviews Holthausen, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xviii, 193-4, Klaeber, the same, 289-91, Krusingsa, *Engl Stud* xxxv, 401-2, v Grienberger, *Z f o G* lvi, 744-61 (very full), E Kock, *A f n F* xxii, 215 (brief)
- 1894 WYATT, A J Beowulf, edited with textual footnotes, index of proper names, and glossary (Text of Finnsburg) Cambridge Reviews Bradley, *Academy*, xlvi, 1894, 69-70, Wulker, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, v, 65-7, Brenner, *Engl Stud* xx, 296, Zupitza, *Archiv*, xiv, 326-9
- 1898 Second edit Reviews Trautmann, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, x, 257, Sarrazin, *Engl Stud* xxviii, 407-8
- 1902 KLUGE, F Angelsächsisches Lesebuch 3 Aufl Halle (xxx Der Überfall von Finnsburuh, pp 127-8)
- 1903 TRAUTMANN, M "Finn u Hildebrand *Bonner Beiträge*, vii (Text, translation and comment on the Episode and Fragment) Reviews Binz, *Z f d Ph* xxxvii, 529-36, Jantzen, *Die Neueren Sprachen*, xi, 543-8, *Neue philol Rundschau*, 1903, 619-21 (signed -tz. ? Jantzen) Some additional notes by Trautmann, "Nachtragliches zu Finn u Hildebrand" appeared in *Bonner Beiträge*, xvii, 122
- 1904 TRAUTMANN, M Das Beowulflied das Finn-Bruchstück u die Waldhere-Bruchstücke Bearbeiteter Text u deutsche Übersetzung *Bonner Beiträge*, xvi Reviews Klaeber, *M L N* xx, 83-7 (weighty), Eckhardt, *Engl Stud* xxxvii, 401-3, Schucking, *Archiv*, cxv, 417-21, Barnouw, *Museum*, xiv, 96-8, *Neue philologische Rundschau* (by Jantzen), 1905, 549-50
- 1905-6 HOLTHAUSEN, F Beowulf nebst dem Finnsburg Bruchstück I Texte II Einleitung, Glossar u Anmerkungen Heidelberg Reviews Lawrence, *J E G Ph* vii, 125-9, Klaeber, *M L N* xxiv, 94-5; Schucking, *Engl Stud* xxxix, 94-111 (weighty), *Deutschbeim Archiv*, cxxi, 162-4, v Grienberger, *Z f o G* 1908, lxx, 333-46 (giving an elaborate list of etymological parallels), Barnouw, *Museum*, xiv, 169-70, Wulker, *D L Z* 1906, 285-6, Jantzen, *Neue philologische Rundschau*, 1907, 18
- 1908-9 2 Aufl, nebst den kleineren Denkmälern der Heldensage, Finnsburg, Waldere, Deor, Widsith, Hildebrand Reviews Eichler, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxi, 129-33, xxii, 161-5, Schucking, *Engl Stud* xlii, 108-11, Brandl, *Archiv*, cxxi, 473, cxxiv, 210, Binz, *Literaturblatt*, xxxii, 1911, 53-5 see also Koepfel, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxiii, 297
- 1912-13 3 Aufl
- 1914-19 4 Aufl Reviews Binz, *Literaturblatt*, xli, 1920, 316-17, Fischer, *Engl Stud* liv, 404-6
- 1908 SCHUCKING, L L Beowulf [8th edit of Heyne's text] Paderborn Reviews Lawrence, *M L N* xxv, 155-7, Klaeber, *Engl Stud* xxxix, 425-33 (weighty), Imelmann, *D L Z* 1909, 995 (contains important original contributions), v Grienberger, *Z f o G* lx, 1089, Boer, *Museum*, xvi, 139 (brief)
- 1910 9 Aufl Reviews Sedgfield, *Engl Stud* xliii, 267-9, F Wild, *Z f o G* lxiv, 153-5
- 1913 10 Aufl Reviews Klaeber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxiv, 289-91, *Engl Stud* xlix, 424, J Degenhart, *Blätter f gymnasialschulwesen*, li, 130, E A Kock, *A f n F* xxxii, 222-3, Holthausen, *Z f d Ph* xlviii, 127-31 (weighty)
- 1918 11, 12 Aufl Reviews Bjorkman, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxx, 121-2, 180, Fischer, *Engl Stud* liii, 338-9

- 1910 SEDGEFIELD, W. J. *Beowulf*, edited with Introduction, Bibliography, Notes, Glossary and Appendices Manchester Reviews Thomas, *MLR* vi, 266-8, Lawrence, *JEGPh* x, 633-40, Wild, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxiii, 253-60, Klaeber, *Engl. Stud.* xlv, 119-26, Brandl, *Archiv*, cxxvi, 279  
     1913 Second edit Reviews *MLR* ix, 429, Lawrence, *JEGPh* xiv, 609-13, Klaeber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxv, 166-8
- 1912 Text of the Finn episode given in MEYER W., *Beiträge zur Geschichte der Eroberung Englands durch die Angelsachsen*
- 1914 CHAMBERS, R. W. *Beowulf with the Finnsburg Fragment*, ed by A. J. WYATT New edition, revised Cambridge Reviews Jones, *MLR* xi, 230-1, Lawrence, *JEGPh* xiv, 609-13, Bright, *MLN* xxvi, 188-9, Schucking, *Engl. Stud.* lv, 88-100
- 1915 DICKINS, B., Runic and Heroic Poems (Text of Finnsburg with Notes) Cambridge Review Mawer, *MLR* xii, 82-4
- 1917 MACKIE, W. L. *The Fight at Finnsburg* (Introduction, Text and Notes) *JEGPh* xvi, 250-73
- 1919 SCHUCKING, L. L. *Kleines angelsächsisches Dichterbuch* ([Includes Finnsburg Fragment, Finnsburg Episode and "Beowulf's Return" (ll 1888-2199)] Reviews Binz, *Literaturblatt*, xli, 1920, pp 315-16, Imelmann, *D LZ* xl, 1919, 423-5, Fischer, *Engl. Stud.* liv, 1920, 302-3
- 1920 Text of Finnsburg Fragment and Episode with commentary, in IMELMANN'S "Forschungen zur altenglischen Poesie"
- An edition of *Beowulf* by Prof F KLAEBER is in the press

## § 5 CONCORDANCES ETC

- 1896 HOLDER, A. *Beowulf*, vol ii b, *Wortschatz* Freiburg Review Brandl, *Afd A* xxiii, 107
- 1911 COOK, A. S. Concordance to *Beowulf* Halle Reviews Klaeber, *JEGPh* xi, 277-9, Garnett, *Amer Int Philol* xxxiii, 86-7

## § 6 TRANSLATIONS (INCLUDING EARLY SUMMARIES)

- 1881 WULKER, R. P. *Besprechung der Beowulfübersetzungen*, *Anglia*, iv, *Anzeiger*, 69-80
- 1886 GUMMERE, F. B. The translation of *Beowulf*, and the relations of ancient and modern English verse, *Amer Jour of Phil* vii, 46-78 (A weighty argument for translation into "the original metre")
- 1891 GARNETT, J. M. The translation of AS poetry, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* vi, 95-105 (Agreeing in the main with Gummere)
- 1897 FRYE, P. H. The translation of *Beowulf*, *MLN* xii, 79-82 (Advocating blank verse)
- 1898 FULTON, E. On translating AS poetry, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xiii, 286-96 (Recommending an irregular four-accent line)
- 1903 GARNETT, J. M. Recent translations of OE poetry, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xviii, 445-58
- 1903 TINKER, C. B. The translations of *Beowulf* A critical bibliography *Yale Studies in English* New York Reviews Klaeber, *JEGPh* v, 116-8, Binz, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xvi, 291-2
- 1909 CHILD, G. C. "Gummere's Oldest English Epic," *MLN* xxiv, 253-4 (A criticism advocating prose translation)
- 1910 GUMMERE, F. B. Translation of Old English Verse, *MLN* xxv, 61-3 (Advocating alliterative verse) Reply by CHILD, *MLN* xxvi, 157-8  
     See also reviews of Gummere, under year 1909, below.

- 1918 LEONARD, W E *Beowulf and the Niebelungen couplet, Univ of Wisconsin Studies in Language and Literature*, II, 99-152
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- 1805 TURNER, SHARON *History of the manners poetry and language of the Anglo Saxons* London (From p 398 to p 408 is a summary, with translations, of *Beowulf*, ProI-viii Turner was misled as to the subject of the poem, because a leaf had been misplaced in the MS, so that the account of the fighting between Grendel and *Beowulf* (ll 740-82) occurred immediately after l 91 The struggle between *Beowulf* and an (unnamed) adversary being thus made to follow the account of *Hrothgar's* court at *Heorot*, Turner was led to suppose that the poem narrated the attempt of *Beowulf* to avenge on *Hrothgar* the feud for a homicide he had committed "The transition," Turner not unreasonably complains, "is rather violent" The correct placing of the shifted leaf is due to Thorkelin )
- 1815 THORKELIN, G J [Latin version in his edition, q v ] The reviewers gave summaries of the poem, with translations of portions of it English in the *Monthly Review*, LXXXI, 1816, 516-23 (less inaccurate than Turner's summary), Danish in the *Dansk Literatur Tidende*, 1815, 401-32, 437-46, and by Grundtvig in the *Nyeste Skulderie* (see below, § 7), Swedish in *Iduna*, VII, 1817, 133-59
- 1819 GRUNDTVIG, N F S *Stykker af Skjoldung Kvadet eller Bjowulfs Minde, Dannevirke*, IV, 234-62
- 1820 GRUNDTVIG, N F S *Bjowulfs Drape*, Kjøbenhavn (Free rhymed translation of *Beowulf* Finnsburg rendered into short lines, unrhymed Introduction and most important critical notes ) Review J Grimm in *Gott Anzeigen*, 1823 = *Kleinere Schriften*, IV, 178-86 For second edit, see 1865
- 1820 TURNER, SHARON *History of the Anglo Saxons* third edit London (Vol III, pp 325-48, contains a summary, with translations, of the earlier part of the poem, much less inaccurate than that of 1805 )
- 1826 CONYBEARE, J J *Illustrations of Anglo Saxon poetry* London (Pp 35-136 contain a summary of *Beowulf*, with blank verse transl and the corresponding text in A S and Latin, pp 175-82, Finnsburg, text with transl into Latin and into English verse )
- 1832 GRUNDTVIG, N F S *Nordens mytologi Anden Udgave* Kiøbenhavn (Pp 571-94 give a summary of the *Beowulf* stories This was, of course, wanting in the first edit of 1808 )
- 1837 KEMBLE, J M *Translation with glossary, preface and notes* London (The "postscript to the preface" in which Kemble supplemented and corrected the "Historical Preface" to his edition of 1833, is the basis of the mythological explanations of *Beowulf* as an Anglian god, *Beowa* )
- 1839 LEO, H [Summary with translation of extracts ] See § 8, below
- 1840 ETTMULLER, L *Beowulf, stäbreimend ubersetzt, mit Einleitung und Anmerkungen* (Finnsburg, pp 36-8) Zurich
- 1845 LONGFELLOW, H W *The Poets and Poetry of Europe* Philadelphia (Pp 8-10 contain transl of extracts from *Beowulf* )
- 1847 SCHALDEMOSE, F [Danish transl of *Beowulf* and *Finnsburg*, in his edit, q v ]
- 1849 WACKERBARTH, A D *Beowulf, translated into English verse*. London (Imitation of Scott's metre )
- 1855 THORPE, B [In his edit, q v ]
- 1857 UHLAND, L. [Prose transl of *Finnsburg* ] *Germania*, II, 354-5

- 1857 GREIN, C W M Dichtungen der Angelsachsen, stabreimend übersetzt. Göttingen (Vol 1, pp 222-308, Beowulf, trans into alliterative verse )  
1883 2 Aufl [Incorporating Grein's manuscript corrections, seen through the press by Wulker ] Cassel Review Kruger, *Engl Stud* VIII, 139-42
- 1859 SIMROOK, K Beowulf übersetzt u erläutert Stuttgart u Augsburg. (Alliterative verse Finnsburg Fragment inserted after l 1124 )
- 1859 SANDRAS, G S. De carminibus anglo-saxonice Caedmoni adjudicatis. Paris (Pp 8-10 contain extract from Beowulf and Latin transl )
- 1861 HAIGH, D H (Prose transl of Finnsburg ) In *Anglo-Saxon Sagas*, pp 32-3, q v
- 1863 HEYNE, M Beowulf übersetzt Paderborn (Blank verse ) Review Holtzmann, *Germania*, VIII, 506-7  
1897<sup>8</sup> 2 Aufl Paderborn Reviews Holthausen, *Archiv*, CIII, 373-6, Wulker, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, ix, 1, Jantzen, *Engl Stud* XXV, 271-3, Lohner, *Z f d G* XLIX, 563  
1915 3 Aufl Paderborn
- 1865 GRUNDTVIG, N F S Bjovulfs Drapen Anden Udgave
- 1872 VON WOLZOGEN, H Beowulf aus dem ags Leipzig (Verse )
- 1876 ARNOLD, T [In his edit, q v ]
- 1877 BOTKINE, L Beowulf traduite en français Havre (Prose some omissions ) Review Korner, *Engl Stud* II, 248-51
- 1881 ZINSSER, G Der Kampf Beowulfs mit Grendel [vv 1-836] als Probe einer metrischen Uebersetzung Saarbrücken Reviews *Archiv*, LXVIII, 446, Kruger, *Engl Stud* VII, 370-2
- 1881 LUMSDEN, H W Beowulf transl into modern rhymes London (Some omissions ) Reviews *Athenæum*, April 1881, p 587, Garnett, *Amer Jour of Phil* II, 355-61, Wulker, *Anglia*, IV, *Anzeiger*, 69-80  
1883 †Second edit Review York Powell, *Academy*, XXVI, 1884, pp 220-1
- 1882 SCHÜHMANN, G Beowulf, antichissimo poema epico de' popoli germanici. *Giornale Napoletano di filosofia e lettere* Anno IV, vol 7, 25-36, 175-190 (A summary only )
- 1882 GARNETT, J M Beowulf and the Fight at Finnsburg, translated Boston, U S A Reviews *Nation* (New York), No 919, 1883, Harrison, *Amer Jour of Phil* IV, 84-6, reply by Garnett, 243-6, Schipper, *Anglia*, VI, *Anzeiger*, 120-4, Kruger, *Engl Stud* VIII, 133-8, and (second edit ) IX, 151, Bright, *Literaturblatt*, 1883, 386-7  
1885 Second edit, revised  
1900 Fourth edit
- 1883 GRION, GIUSTO Beowulf, poema epico anglosassone del VII secolo, tradotto e illustrato In the *Atti della reale Accademia Lucchese*, XXII (First Italian translation ) Review Kruger, *Engl Stud* IX, 64-77
- 1889 †WICKBERG, R Beowulf, en fornengelsk hjaltetdikt oversatt Westervik  
1914 †Second edit Upsala Review Kock, *A f n F* XXXII, 223-4
- 1892 HALL, JOHN LESSLIE Beowulf translated (Verse, with notes ) Boston, U S A Reviews *M L N* VII, 128, 1892 (brief mention), Miller, *Viking Club Year Book*, I, 91-2, Holthausen, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, IV, 33-6, Glode, *Engl Stud* XIX, 257-60  
1893 †Student's edit
- 1892 (1891) EARLE, JOHN The deeds of Beowulf Oxford (Prose translation, somewhat spoilt by its artificial and sometimes grotesque vocabulary, very valuable introduction, with summary of the controversy to date,

- and notes) Reviews *Athenæum*, 1 Oct 1892, Koepfel, *Engl. Stud.* xviii, 93-5 (fair, though rather severe)
- 1893 HOFFMANN, P. Beowulf aus dem angelsächsischen übertragen Zulu-chau (In the measure of the Nibelungenlied, incl Finnsburg.) Re-views (mostly unfavourable) Shipley, *M L N* ix, 121-3, 1894, Wulker, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, v, 67, Wulker, *Lit Cbl* 1894, p 1930, Glode, *Engl Stud* xix, 412-5, †Dettler, *Oster. Literaturblatt*, v, 9, †Marold, *Deut Literaturblatt*, xxiii, 332
- 1900 ‡Second edit. Hannover
- 1895 MORRIS, W and WYATT, A J The Tale of Beowulf. Kelmscott Press, Hammersmith (Verse: archaic vocabulary)
- 1898 New edit. Review Hulme, *M L N* xv, 22-6, 1900
- 1896 SIMONS, L. Beowulf vertaald in stafrum en met inleiding en aantee-keningen. Gent (*Koninklijke vlaamsche Academie*) Reviews Glode, *Engl Stud.* xxv, 270-1, Uhlenbeck, *Museum* (Groningen), v, 217-8
- 1898 STEINECK, H. Altenglische Dichtungen (Beowulf, Elene, u a) in wort-getreuer Übersetzung. Leipzig (Prose, line for line) Reviews Binz, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, ix, 220-2, Holthausen, *Archiv*, ciii, 376-8 (both very unfavourable)
- 1901 HALL, J R CLARK. Beowulf and the fight at Finnsburg. A translation into modern English prose. London. Reviews *Athenæum*, 1901, July, p 56, *Academy*, lx, 1901, 342, Stedman, *Viking Club Year Book*, iii, 72-4, Tinker, *J E G Ph* iv, 379-81, Holthausen, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xiii, 225-8, Dibeling, *Archiv*, cix, 403-4, Vietor, *Die neueren Sprachen*, xi, 439, Wulker, *Lit Cbl* 1902, 30-1 ("sehr zu empfehlen")
- 1911 (q v) New edit, with considerable additions
- 1902 TINKER, C B. Beowulf translated out of the Old English. New York (Prose) Reviews: Klaeber, *J E G Ph* v, 91-3, Holthausen, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xiv, 7
- 1903 †BJORKMAN, E. Swedish transl (prose) of Beowulf, Part II (in *Schuck's Varldslitteraturen*, with introd by Schuck)
- 1903-4 TRAUTMANN, M, in his editions, q v
- 1904 CHILD, C G. Beowulf and the Finnesburh Fragment translated. London and Boston. Reviews Grattan, *M L R* iii, 303-4 ("a good prose translation which steers an even course between pseudo archaisms and modern colloquialisms"), Miller, *Viking Club Year Book*, i, 91-2, Klaeber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xvi, 225-7, Brandl, *Archiv*, cxxi, 473
- 1904 †HANSEN, A. Transl into Danish of Beowulf, li 491-924, *Danske Tidsskrift*
- 1905 VOGT, P. Beowulf übersetzt. Halle (Text rearranged according to theories of interpolation. Finnsburg Fragment translated, following Moller's text) Reviews Binz, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxi, 289-91, Eichler, *Z f o G* lvii, 908-10, Klaeber, *Archiv*, cxvii, 408-10, Jantzen, *Lit Cbl* 1906, 257-8
- 1906 GERING, H. Beowulf nebst dem Finnsburg-Bruchstück übersetzt. Heidelberg (Verse) Reviews Lawrence, *J E G Ph* vii, 129-33 ("thoroughly scholarly"), Jantzen, *Lit Cbl* 1907, 64-5, Ries, *A f d A* xxxiii, 143-7, Binz, *Literaturblatt*, xxxi, 397-8 ("Fließend und ungezwungen, sinngetreu"), †Zehme, *Monatsschrift*, xiv, 597-600, v Grienberger, *Z f o G* 1908, lix, 423-8
- 1914 2 Aufl
- 1907 HUYSHE, W. Beowulf translated into prose ("Appendix The Fight at Finn's burgh") London ("Translation," to quote Clark Hall, "apparently such as might have been compiled from previous translations by a person ignorant of Aes. Some original mistakes") Reviews *Athenæum*, 1907, ii, 96 ("Mr Huyshe displays sad ignorance of Old

- English but an assiduous study of the work of his predecessors has preserved him from misrepresenting seriously the general sense of the text"), *Notes and Queries*, Ser. x, vol. viii, 58, Garnett, *Amer. Jnl Philol* xxxix, 344-6, Klaeber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xix, 257
- 1909 GUMMERE, F B The oldest English Epic Beowulf, Finnsburg, Waldere, Deor and the German Hildebrand, translated in the original metres New York *Reviews Athenæum*, 1909, ii, 151, Trautmann, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxiii, 353-60 (metrical debate), Sedgefield, *Engl Stud* xli, 402-3 (discussing possibility of reproducing in Mod Eng the Old Eng alliterative verse rhythm), Derocquigny, *Revue Germanique*, vi, 356-7, see also above, p. 390
- 1910 HANSEN, ADOLF Bjovulf, oversat af A Hansen, og efter hans død gået efter og fuldført samt forsynet med en indledning og en oversættelse af brudstykket om kampen i Finsborg, af Viggo Julius von Holstein Rathlov, udgivet ved Oskar Hansen København og Kristiania An account of this translation, by v Holstein Rathlov, in *Tilskueren*, June, 1910, pp. 557-62, Review Olrik, *Danske Studier*, 1910, 112-13
- 1911 CLARK HALL, J R Beowulf and the Finnsburg Fragment A translation into Modern English Prose London *Reviews Mawer, M L R* vi, 542 ("probably the best working translation that we have, enriched by a valuable introduction and excellent appendices"). *Academy*, 1911, i, 225-6, Bjorkman, *Engl Stud* xliv, 127-8, *Archiv*, cxxvi, 492-3, Binz, *Literaturblatt*, xxxii, 232
- 1912 PIERQUIN, H Le poème Anglo Saxon de Beowulf (An extraordinary piece of work, the version mainly follows Kemble's text, which is reproduced, but with many misprints Kemble's *Saxons in England* is translated by way of introduction The Finnsburg Fragment is included) *Reviews Academy*, 1912, ii, 509-10 (seems to regard Pierquin as author of *Les Saxons en Angleterre*), Sedgefield, *M L R* viii, 550-2, Klaeber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxiv, 138-9, Imelmann, *D L Z* xxxiv (1913), 1062-3 (very unfavourable), Luick, *Mitt d inst f österr gesch forsch* xxxvi, 401, Barat, *Moyen Âge*, xxvi (see ser xvf), 298-302
- 1913 KIRTLAN, E J The Story of Beowulf London (A fair specimen of the less scholarly translations, nicely got up and not exceedingly incorrect) *Reviews Athenæum*, 1914, ii, 71, Klaeber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxvii, 129-31
- 1914 CLARK HALL, J R Beowulf a metrical translation Cambridge (Not so successful as the same writer's prose translation) *Reviews Sedgefield, M L R* x, 387-9 (discussing the principles of metrical translation), Klaeber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxvi, 170-2
- 1915 OLIVERO, F Traduzioni dalla Poesia Anglo-sassone Bari (Pp 73-119, extracts from Beowulf) Review *M L R* xi, 509
- 1916 BENEDETTI, A La canzone di Beowulf, poema epico anglo-sassone del vi secolo Versione italiana, con introduzione e note Palermo
- 1918 LEONARD, W E [Specimen, Passus ix, of forthcoming transl, in the measure of the Nibelungenlied] In *Univ of Wisconsin Studies*, ii, 149-52 see above
- A translation of Beowulf into the Norwegian "landsmaal," by H. RYTTER, will appear shortly.

Popular paraphrases of Beowulf are not included in the above list. An account will be found in Tinker's *Translations* of those of E. H. Jones (in Cox's *Popular Romances*, 1871), J. Gibb, 1881-4, Wagner MacDowall, 1883 etc., Miss Z. A. Ragozin, 1898, 1900, A. J. Church, 1898, Miss C. L. Thomson, 1899, 1904. Mention may also be made of those of F. A. Turner, 1894, H. E. Maxwell, 1908, T. Cartwright, 1908, Prof. J. H. Cox, 1910. An illustrated summary of

the *Beowulf* story was issued by Mr W T Stead in his penny "Books for the Bairns" The versions of Miss Thomson and Prof. Cox are both good The paraphrase in the *Canadian Monthly*, II, 83 (1872), attributed in several bibliographies to Earle, is assuredly not the work of that scholar it is an inaccurate version based upon Jones An account will be found in Tinker of the German paraphrase of Therese Dahn, 1883 etc, mention may also be made of those of J Arnheim, 1871, ‡ F Bassler, sec edit 1875 (praised highly by Klaeber in *J E G Ph* v, 118)

## § 7 TEXTUAL CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION

- 1815 GRUNDTVIG, N F S Et Par Ord om det nys udkomne angelsaxiske Diget *Nyeste Skulderie af Kjøbenhavn*, No 60 etc, cols 945, 998, 1009, 1025, 1045, ¶ Nok et Par Ord om Bjovulfs Drape, 1106, 1121, 1139 (comment upon Thorkelin's text and translation)
- 1815 THORKELIN, G J Reply to Grundtvig in *Nyeste Skulderie*, cols 1057, 1073 (There were further articles in the same magazine, but they were purely personal)
- 1820 GRUNDTVIG, N F S Emendations to Thorkelin's text, added to *Bjovulfs Drape*, 267-312
- 1826 CONYBEARE, J J Illustrations of Anglo Saxon poetry London (*Beowulf* and "Finnsborough," pp 30-182)
- 1859 BOTTERWEG, K W Zur Kritik des Beowulfliedes, *Z f d A* XI, 59-113
- 1859 DIETRICH, F Rettungen, *Z f d A* XI, 409-20
- 1863 HOLTZMANN, A Zu Beowulf, *Germania*, VIII, 489-97 (Incl Finnsburg)
- 1865 GREIN, C W M Zur Textkritik der angelsächsischen Dichter Finnsburg, *Germania*, X, 422
- 1868-9 BUGGE, SOPHUS Spredte iagttagelser vedkommende de oldengelske digte om Beowulf og Waldere *Tidskrift for Philologi og Pædagogik*, VII, 40-78 and 287-307 (incl Finnsburg, 304-5) Important
- 1871 RIEGER, M Zum Beowulf, *Z f d Ph* III, 381-416
- 1873 BUGGE, S Zum Beowulf, *Z f d Ph* IV, 192-224
- 1880 KOLBING, E Kleine Beiträge (Beowulf, 168, 169), *Engl. Stud* III, 92 etc
- 1882 KLUGE, F Sprachhistorische Miscellen (Beowulf, 63, 1027, 1235, 1267), *P B B* VIII, 532-5
- 1882 COSIJN, P J Zum Beowulf, *P B B* VIII, 568-74
- 1883 SIEVERS, E Zum Beowulf, *P B B* IX, 135-44, 370
- 1883 KLUGE, F Zum Beowulf *P B B* IX, 187-92
- 1883 KRUGER, TH Zum Beowulf, *P B B* IX, 571-8
- 1889 MILLER, T The position of Grendel's arm in Heorot, *Anglia*, XII, 398-400
- 1890 JOSEPH, E Zwei Versversetzungen im Beowulf *Z f d Ph* XXII, 385-97
- 1891 SCHROER, A Zur texterklärung des Beowulf, *Anglia*, XIII, 333-48
- 1891-2 COSIJN, P J Aanteekeningen op den Beowulf Leiden (Important) Reviews Lubke, *A f d A* XIV, 341-2, Holthausen, *Literaturblatt*, 1895, p 82
- 1892 SIEVERS, E Zur texterklärung des Beowulf, *Anglia*, XIV, 133-46
- 1895 BRIGHT, J W Notes on the Beowulf (II 30, 306, 386-7, 623, 737), *M L N* X, 43-4
- 1899 TRAUTMANN, M Berichtigungen, Vermutungen und Erklärungen zum Beowulf (II 1-1215) *Bonner Beiträge zur Anglistik*, II, 121-92 Reviews Binz, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, XIV, 358-60, Holthausen, *Literaturblatt*, 1900, 62-4 (important) See Sievers, *P B B* XXVII, 572, XXVIII, 271
- 1901 KLAEBER, F A few Beowulf notes (II 459, 847 etc, 1206, 3024 etc, 3171), *M L N* XVI, 14-18



- 1902 KLAEBER, F. Zum Beowulf (497-8, 1745-7), *Archiv*, cviii, 368-70.
- 1902 KLAEBER, F. Beowulf's character, *M L N* xvii, 162
- 1903 KRACKOW, O. Zu Beowulf, 1225, 2222, *Archiv*, cxi, 171-2
- 1904 BRYANT, F E Beowulf, 62, *M L N*. xix, 121-2
- 1904 ABBOTT, W C Hrothulf, *M L N* xix, 122-5 (Abbott suggests that Hrothulf is the name—missing in whole or part from l 62—of the husband of the daughter of Healfdene. This suggestion is quite untenable, for many reasons. Hrothulf (Rolf Kraki) is a Dane, and the missing husband is a Swede but the article led to a long controversy between Bryant and Klaeber, see *M L N* xx, 9-11, xxi, 143, 255, xxii, 96, 160. Klaeber is undoubtedly right.)
- 1904 KRAPP, G B Miscellaneous Notes *Scürheard*, *M L N* xix, 234
- 1904 SIEVERS, E Zum Beowulf, *P B B* xxix, 305-31. (Criticism of Trautmann's emendations)
- 1904 KOCK, E A Interpretations and Emendations of Early English Texts III (Beowulf), *Anglia*, xxvii, 218-37
- 1904 SIEVERS, E Zum Beowulf (I 5. Criticism of Kock), *P B B* xxix, 560-76  
Reply by Kock, *Anglia*, xxviii (1905), 140-2
- 1905 TRAUTMANN, M Auch zum Beowulf ein gruss an herren Eduard Sievers, *Bonner Beiträge zur Anglistik*, xvii, 143-74 (Reply to Sievers' criticism of Trautmann's conjectural emendations) Review Klaeber, *M L N*. xxii, 252
- 1905 SWIGGETT, G L Notes on the Finnsburg fragment, *M L N* xx, 169-71
- 1905 KLAEBER, F Notizen zur texterklarung des Beowulf, *Anglia*, xxviii, 439-47 (incl Finnsburg), Zum Beowulf, the same, 448-56
- 1905 KLAEBER, F Bemerkungen zum Beowulf, *Archiv*, cxv, 178-82 (Incl Finnsburg)
- 1905 HOLTHAUSEN, F Beiträge zur Erklärung des altengl. epos I, Zum Beowulf, II, Zum Finnsburg fragment, *Z f d Ph* xxxvii, 113-25
- 1905-6 KLAEBER, F Studies in the Textual Interpretation of "Beowulf," *Mod. Phil* iii, 235-66, 445-65 (Most important)
- 1906 CHILD, C G Beowulf, 30, 53, 132 (i.e. 1323), 2957, *M L N* xxi, 175-7, 198-200
- 1906 HORN, W Textkritische Bemerkungen (Beowulf, 69 etc), *Anglia*, xxix, 130-1
- 1906 KLAEBER, F Notizen zum Beowulf, *Anglia*, xxix, 378-82
- 1907 KLAEBER, F Minor Notes on the Beowulf, *J E G Ph* vi, 190-6
- 1908 TINKER, C B Notes on Beowulf, *M L N* xxi, 239-40
- 1908 KLAEBER, F Zum Beowulf, *Engl. Stud* xxxix, 463-7
- 1909 KLAEBER, F Textual Notes on Beowulf, *J E G Ph* viii, 254-9
- 1910 VON GRIENBERGER, T Bemerkungen zum Beowulf, *P B B* xxxvi, 77-101 (Incl Finnsburg)
- 1910 SIEVERS, E Gegenbemerkungen zum Beowulf, *P B B* xxxvi, 397-434 (Incl Finnsburg)
- 1910 SEDGEFIELD, W J Notes on "Beowulf," *M L R* v, 286-8
- 1910 TRAUTMANN, M Beiträge zu einem künftigen "Sprachschatz der altenglischen Dichter," *Anglia*, xxxiii, 276-9 (*gedrøgt*)
- 1911 BLACKBURN, F A Note on Beowulf, 1591-1617, *Mod. Phil* ix, 555-66 (Argues that a loose leaf has been misplaced and the order of events thus disturbed)
- 1911 KLAEBER, F Zur Texterklarung des Beowulf, vv 767, 1129, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxii, 372-4
- 1912 HART, J M Beowulf, 168-9, *M L N* xxvii, 198

- 1912-14 GREEN, C W M Sprachschatz der angelsachsischen dichter Unter mitwirkung von F Holthausen neu herausgegeben von J J Köhler Heidelberg Reviews Trautmann, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxiv, 36-43, Schucking, *Engl Stud* xlix, 113-5
- 1915 CHAMBERS, R W The "Shifted leaf" in Beowulf, *M L R*, x, 37-41 (Points out that the alleged "confused order of events" is that also followed in the Grettis saga)
- 1916 GREEN, A The opening of the episode of Finn in Beowulf, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxxi, 759-97
- 1916 BRIGHT, J W Anglo-Saxon *umbor* and *seld-guma*, *M L N* xxxi, 82-4, Beowulf, 489-90, *M L N* xxxi, 217-23
- 1917 GREEN, A An episode in Ongeneow's fall, *M L R* xii, 340-3
- 1917 HOLLANDER, L M Beowulf, 33, *M L N* xxvii, 246-7 (Suggests the reading *itig*)
- 1917 HOLTHAUSEN, F Zu altenglischen Denkmälern—Beowulf, 1140, *Engl Stud* li, 180
- 1918 HUBBARD, F G Beowulf, 1598, 1996, 2026 uses of the impersonal verb *geweorpan*, *J E G Ph* xvii, 119
- 1918 KOCK, E A Interpretations and emendations of early English Texts iv, Beowulf, *Anglia*, xlii, 99-124 (Important)
- 1918 †KOCK, E A Jubilee Jaunts and Jottings, in the *Lunds univ årskrift*, N F avd 1, bd 14, nr 26 (*Festskrift vid 250 årsjubileum*) Reviews Holthausen, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxx, 1-5, Klaeber, *J E G Ph* xix, 409-13
- 1919 MOORE, SAMUEL Beowulf Notes (Textual), *J E G Ph* xviii, 205-16
- 1919 KLAEBER, F Concerning the functions of OE *geweorðan*, *J E G Ph* xviii, 250-71 (Cf paper of Prof Hubbard above, by which this was suggested)
- 1919 KLAEBER, F Textual notes on "Beowulf," *M L N* xxxiv, 129-34.
- 1919 BROWN, CARLETON Beowulf, 1080-1106, *M L N* xxxiv, 181-3
- 1919 BRETT, CYRIL Notes on passages of Old and Middle English, *M L R* xiv, 1-9
- 1919-20 KOCK, E A Interpretations and emendations of Early English Texts v (Incl Beowulf, 2030, 2419-24), vi (Incl Beowulf 24, 154-6, 189-90, 1992-3, 489-90, 581-3, 1745-7, 1820-1, 1931-2, 2164), vii (Incl Beowulf, 1230, 1404, 1553-6), *Anglia*, xliii, 303-4, xlv, 98 etc, 245 etc
- 1920 BRYAN W F Beowulf Notes (303-6, 532-4 867-71), *J E G Ph* xix, 84-5

# § 8 QUESTIONS OF LITERARY HISTORY, DATE AND AUTHORSHIP BEOWULF IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY, ARCHÆOLOGY, HEROIC LEGEND, MYTHOLOGY AND FOLKLORE

See also preceding sections

No attempt is made here to deal with Old English heroic legend in general, nor to enumerate the references to *Beowulf* in histories of literature. Probably the earliest allusion to our poem by a great writer is in Scott's *Essay on Romance* (1824)

"The Saxons had, no doubt, Romances, and Mr Turner has given us the abridgement of one entitled *Caedmon*, in which the hero, whose adventures are told much after the manner of the ancient Norse Sagas, encounters, defeats and finally slays an evil being called Grendel "

- 1816 WITZEN, N Das ags Gedicht Beowulf, *Kieler Blätter*, iii, 307-27 (See above, p. 94, note)

- 1816 (Review of Thorkelin in) *Monthly Review*, LXXXI, 516-23. (Beowulf identified with Beow Sceldwaing of the West Saxon genealogy, see above, p 292)
- 1817 GRUNDTVIG, N F S *Danne-Virke*, II, 207-89 (Identifies Chochilaicus; see above, p 4, note)
- 1826 GRIMM, W Einleitung über die Elfen, *Kleinere Schriften*, I, 405, esp p 467 (extract relating to Grendel's hatred of song) From *frische Elfenmarchen*
- 1829 GRIMM, W Die deutsche Heldensage Göttingen (Pp 13-17 Extracts from Beowulf, with translation, relating to Weland, Sigemund, Hama and Eormenric)
- 1836 KEMBLE, J M Über die Stammtafel der Westsachsen München Review J Grimm, *Göttingische gelehrte Anzeigen*, 1836, 649-57, = *Kleinere Schriften*, IV, 240
- 1836 MONE, F J Zur Kritik des Gedichts von Beowulf (in Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der deutschen Heldensage) Quedlinburg u Leipzig (Pp 129-36)
- 1839 LEO, H Beowulf nach seinem Inhalte, und nach seinen historischen und mythologischen beziehungen betrachtet Halle
- 1841 DISRAELI, I Amenities of Literature London (Beowulf, the Heroic Life Vol I, pp 80-92)
- 1841 GRUNDTVIG, N F S Bjovulfs Drape, *Brage og Idun*, IV, 481-538 (Discusses the story, with criticism of previous scholars, and especially of Kemble)
- 1843-9 GRIMM, W Einleitung zur Vorlesung über Gudrun [with an abstract of Beowulf], see *Kleinere Schriften*, IV, 557-60
- 1844 MULLENHOFF, K Die deutschen Völker an Nord- und Ostsee in ältester Zeit, *Nordalbingische Studien*, I, 111 etc
- 1845 A brief discussion of Beowulf in *Edinburgh Review*, LXXII, 309-11
- 1845 HAUG, M Zum Beowulf, *ZfdA* V, 10 (Drawing attention to the reference to Hygelac in the *liber de monstis*, see above, p 4)
- 1848 MULLENHOFF, K Die austrasische Dietrichssage, *ZfdA* VI, 435 etc.
- 1849 MULLENHOFF, K Sceaf u seine Nachkommen, *ZfdA* VII, 410-19, Der Mythos von Beowulf, *ZfdA* VII, 419-41
- 1849 GRIMM, J Ueber das Verbrennen der Leichen, *Abhandl d Berl Akad*, 1849, 191 etc = *Kleinere Schriften*, II, 211-313 (esp 261-4)
- 1849 BACHLEOHNER, J Die Merovinge im Beowulf, *ZfdA* VII, 524-6
- 1851 ZAPPERT, G Virgil's Fortleben im Mittelalter, *Denkschriften der k Akad Wien, Phil-Hist Classe*, Bd II, Abth 2, pp 17-70 (Gives numerous parallels between Virgil and "Beowulf," somewhat indiscriminately)
- 1852 BRYNJULFSSON, G Oldengelsk og Oldnordisk, *Antikuarisk Tidsskrift*, Kjøbenhavn, 1852-4, pp 81-143 (An important paper which has been unduly overlooked Brynjulfsson notes the parallel between Beowulf and Bjarki (see above, p 61) and in other respects anticipates later scholars, e.g., in noting the close relationship between Angles and Danes (p 143) and less fortunately (pp 129-31) in identifying the Geatas with the Jutes)
- 1856 BACHLECHNER, J Eomacur und Heming (Hamlac), *Germania*, I, 297-303 and 455-61
- 1856 BOUTERWEK, K W Das Beowulflied Eine Vorlesung, *Germania*, I, 385-418
- 1857 UHLAND, L Sigemund und Sigeferd, *Germania*, II, 344-63 = *Spätzeiten*, VIII, 479 etc (Incl Finnsburg)

- 1858 WEINHOLD, K Die Riesen des germanischen Mythos, *Sitzungsberichte der K Akad., Wien, Phil.-Hist. Classe*, xxvi, 225-306 (Grendel and his mother, p 255)
- 1859 RIEGER, M. Ingaevonen, Istaevonen, Hergamonen, *Zfd A* xi, 177-205
- 1859 MULLENHOFF, K Zur Kritik des angelsächsischen Volksepos 2, Widsith, *Zfd A* xi, 275-94
- 1860 MULLENHOFF, K Zeugnisse u Excursus zur deutschen Heldensage, *Zfd A* xii, 253-386 (*This portion of vol xii was published in 1860.*)
- 1861 HAIGH, D H The Anglo-Saxon Sagas London (An uncritical attempt to identify the proper names in Beowulf and Finnsburg with sites in England)
- 1862 GREIN, C W M Die historischen Verhältnisse des Beowulfliedes, *Eberts Jahrbuch für roman u. engl Litt* iv, 260-85 (Incl Finnsburg)
- 1864 †SCHULTZE, M Ueber das Beowulfshied *Programm des städtischen Real-schuls zu Ellbng* (Not seen, but contents, including the mythical interpretations current at the period, noted in *Archiv*, xxxvii, 232)
- 1864 HEYNE, M Ueber die Lage und Construction der Halle Heorot Paderborn
- 1868 KOHLER, A Germanische Alterthümer im Beowulf, *Germania*, xiii, 129-58
- 1869 MULLENHOFF, K Die innere Geschichte des Beowulfs, *Zfd A* xiv, 193-244 (Reprinted in *Beowulf*, 1889 See above, p 113 etc)
- 1870 KOHLER, A Die Einleitung des Beowulfliedes Die beiden Episoden von Heremod, *Zfd Ph* ii, 305-21
- 1875 SCHRÖDER, L Om Bjovulfs Drapen København (See above, p 30)
- 1876 BOTKINE, L Beowulf Analyse historique et géographique Havre (Material subsequently incorporated in translation, q v § 6) Review Korner, *Engl Stud.* i, 495-6
- 1877 SKEAT, W W The name "Beowulf," *Academy*, xi (Jan-June), p 163 (Suggests Beowulf = "woodpecker", see above, pp 365-6, note)
- 1877 TEN BRINK, B Geschichte der englischen Litteratur (*Beowulf*, Finnsburg, pp 29-40)
- 1877 DEDERICH, H Historische u geographische Studien zum ags Beowulfliede Köln (Incl Finnsburg) Reviews Korner, *Engl Stud* i, 481-95, Mullenhoff, *Afd A* iii, 172-82, †Suchier, *Jenaer Literatur-Zeitung*, xlvii, 732, 1876
- 1877 HORNBERG, J Die Composition des Beowulf *Programm des K Lyceums in Metz* Full summary by F Hummel in *Archiv*, lxii, 231-3 See also under 1884
- 1877 SCHULTZE, M Alt-heidnisches in der angelsächsischen Poesie, speciell im Beowulfshiede Berlin
- 1877 SUCHIER, H Ueber die Sage von Offa u pryðo, *PBB* iv, 500-21
- 1878 MULLER, N Die Mythen im Beowulf, in ihrem Verhältniss zur germanischen Mythologie betrachtet Dissertation, Heidelberg Leipzig
- 1879 LAISTNER, L Nebelsagen Stuttgart (See above, p 46, note)
- 1879 SWEET, H Old English etymologies i, *Beohata, Engl Stud* ii, 312-14 (See above, p 365)
- 1880 GERING, H Der Beowulf u die islandische Grettissaga, *Anglia*, iii, 74-87 (Important Gering announced Vigfússon's discovery to a wider circle of readers, with translation of the Sandhaugar episode, and useful comment The discovery was further announced to American readers by GARNETT in the *American Journal of Philology*, i, 492 (1880), though its importance was there rather understated See above, p 54)

- 1881 SMITH, C SPRAGUE Beowulf Grettli, *New Englander*, XL (N S IV), 49-67 (Translation of corresponding passages in Grettis saga and Beowulf)
- 1882 MARCH, F A The World of Beowulf, *Proceedings of Amer. Phil Assoc* pp XXI-XXIII.
- 1883 RÖNNING, F Beowulfs-kvadet, en literær-historisk undersøgelse København Review Heinzel, *Afd A* x, 233-9 (Rönnig criticises Mullenhoff's theories of separate lays His book and Heinzel's review are both important.)
- 1883 MERBOT, R Aesthetische Studien zur Ags Poesie Breslau Reviews Koch, *Anglia*, VI, *Anzeiger*, 100-3, Kluge, *Engl Stud* VIII, 480-2.
- 1884 EARLE, J Anglo Saxon Literature (The dawn of European Literature) London (Pp 120-39 deal with Beowulf Earle holds Beowulf to be "a genuine growth of that junction in time when the heathen tales still kept their traditional interest, and yet the spirit of Christianity had taken full possession of the Saxon mind")
- 1884 FAHLBECK, P Beowulfs kvadet såsom källa för nordisk fornhistoria, *Antikvar tidsskr för Sverige*, VIII, 1-87 Review *Academy*, XIX, 1886, p 12 (See above, pp 8, 333)
- 1884 HARRISON, J A Old Teutonic life in Beowulf, *Overland Monthly*, Sec Ser vol IV, 14-24, 152-61
- 1884 HERTZ, W Beowulf, das älteste germanische Epos, *Nord und Sud*, XIX, 229-53
- 1884 HÖRNBERG, J Die komposition des Beowulf, *Archiv*, LXXII, 333-404 (Rejects Mullenhoff's "Liedertheorie")
- 1884 KRUGER, TH Zum Beowulfliede •Bromberg Reviewed favourably by Kolbing, *Engl Stud* IX, 150, severely by Kluge, *Literaturblatt*, 1884, 428-9 (A useful summary, which had the misfortune to be superseded next year by the publication of Wulker's *Grundriss*)
- 1884 KRUGER, TH Über Ursprung u Entwicklung des Beowulfliedes, *Archiv*, LXXI, 129-52
- 1884-5 EARLE, J Beowulf, in *The Times*, London (Aug 25, 1884, p 6 (not signed), Oct 29, 1885, p 3, Sept 30, 1885, p 3 "The Beowulf itself is a tale of old folk lore which, in spite of repeated editing, has never quite lost the old crust of its outline This discovery, if established, must have the effect of quite excluding the application of the Wolfian hypothesis to our poem")
- 1885 WULKER, R Grundriss zur geschichte der angelsächsischen Litteratur Leipzig 6 Die angelsächsische Heldendichtung, Beowulf, Finnsburg, 244-315 (An important and useful summary)
- 1885 LEHMANN, H Brunne und Helm im angelsächsischen Beowulfliede Dissertation, Göttingen Leipzig Reviews Wulker, *Anglia*, VIII, *Anzeiger*, 167-70, Schulz, *Engl Stud* IX, 471
- 1886 SKEAT, W W On the signification of the monster Grendel with a discussion of ll. 2076-2100 Read before the Cambridge Philological Society *Journal of Philology*, xv, 120-31 (Not *American Jour of Phil*, as frequently quoted)
- 1886 SARRAZIN, G Die Beowulfsage in Danemark, *Anglia*, IX, 195-9, Beowa and Bothvar, *Anglia*, IX, 200-4, Beowulf and Kynnewulf, *Anglia*, IX, 515-50, Der Schauplatz des ersten Beowulfliedes und die Heimat des Dichters, *P B B* XI, 159-83 (see above, p 101)
- 1886 SIEVERS, E Die Heimat des Beowulfdichters, *P B B* XI, 354-62.
- 1886 SARRAZIN, G Altnordisches im Beowulfliede, *P B B* XI, 528-41 (See above, p 102)
- 1886 SIEVERS, E. Altnordisches im Beowulf? *P B B*, XII, 168<sup>4</sup>-200.

- 1886 SCHILLING, H Notes on the Finnsaga, *M L N* i, 89-92, 116-17
- 1886 LEHMANN, H Über die Waffen im angelsächsischen Beowulfliede, *Germania*, xxxi, 486-97
- 1887 SCHILLING, H. The Finnsburg-fragment and the Finn-episode, *M L N* ii, 146-50
- 1887 MORLEY, H Beowulf and the Fight at Finnsburg, in *English Writers*, vol. i, 276-354 London.
- 1887 BUGGE, S. Studien über das Beowulfepos, *P B B* xii, 1-112, 360-75 Important (Das Finnsburgfragment, pp 20-8)
- 1887 †SCHNEIDER, F Der Kampf mit Grendels Mutter *Program des Friedrichs Real Gymnasiums* Berlin
- 1888 TEN BRINK, B Beowulf Untersuchungen (*Quellen u Forschungen*, LXII) (Important See above, p 113) Strassburg Reviews Wulker, *Anglia*, xi, 319-21 and *Lit Cbl* 1889, 251, Molle, *Engl Stud* xiii, 247-315 (weighty, containing some good remarks on the Jutes-Geatas), Koeppe, *Zfd Ph* xxiii, 113-22, Heinzel, *Afd A* xv, 153-82 (weighty), Liebermann, *Deut Zeitschr f Geschichtswissenschaft*, ii, 1889, 197-9, Kraus, *D L Z* xii, 1891, 1605-7, 1846 reply by ten Brink ("Beowulfkritik und ABAB"), *D L Z* 1892, 109-12
- 1888 SARRAZIN, G Beowulf-Studien Berlin Reviews Koeppe, *Engl Stud* xiii, 472-80, Sarrazin, *Entgegnung*, *Engl Stud* xiv, 421 etc, reply by Koeppe, xiv, 427, Sievers, *Zfd Ph* xxi, 366, Dieter, *Archiv*, LXXIII, 352-3, Heinzel, *Afd A* xv, 182-9, Wulker, *Lit Cbl* 1889, 315-16, Wulker, *Anglia*, xi, 536-41 Holthausen, *Literaturblatt*, 1890, 14-16, Liebermann, *Deut Zeitschr f Geschichtswissenschaft*, vi, 1891, 138, Kraus, *D L Z* xii, 1891, pp 1822-3 (All these reviews express dissent from Sarrazin's main conclusions, though many of them show appreciation of details in his work See above, p 101)
- 1888 KITTREDGE, G L Zu Beowulf, 107 etc, *P B B* xiii, 210 (Cain's kin)
- 1889 MULLENHOFF, K Beowulf (pp 110-65 = *Zfd A* xiv, 193-244) Berlin See above, pp 46-7, 113-15 Reviews Schürmer, *Anglia*, xxi, 465-7, Sarrazin, *Engl Stud* xvi, 71-85 (important), Wulker, *Lit Cbl* 1890, 58-9, Heinzel, *Afd A* xvi, 264-75 (important), Koeppe, *Zfd Ph* xxiii, 110-13, Holthausen, *Literaturblatt*, 1890, 370-3, Liebermann, *Deut Zeitschr f Geschichtswissenschaft*, vi, 1891, 135-7, Kraus, *D L Z* xii, 1891, pp 1820-2, Logeman, *Le Moyen Age*, iii, 266-7 ("personne ne conteste plus que le poème se composait originairement de plusieurs parties") Mullenhoff's look, like that of ten Brink, is based on assumptions generally held at the time, but now not so widely accepted, yet it remains important
- 1889 LAISTNER, L Das Rätsel der Sphinx Berlin (See above, p 67)
- 1889 LUNING, O Die Natur in der altgermanischen und mittelhochdeutschen Epik Zurich Reviews Weinhold, *Zfd Ph* xxii, 246-7, Golther, *D L Z* 1889, 710-2, Ballerstedt, *Afd A* xvi, 71-4, Frankel, *Literaturblatt*, 1890, 439-44
- 1890 †DESKAU, H Zum studium des Beowulf *Berichte des freien deutschen Hochstiftes*, 1890 Frankfurt
- 1890 †KLÖPPER, C Heorot-Hall in the Anglo Saxon poem of Beowulf *Festschrift für K E Krause* Rostock
- 1891 JELLINEK, M H and KRAUS, C Die Widersprüche im Beowulf, *Zfd A* xxxv, 265-81
- 1891 BUGGE, S and OLRIK, A Røveren ved Gråsten og Beowulf, *Dania*, i, 233-45.
- 1891 JELLINEK, M H Zum Finnsburgfragment, *P B B* xv, 428-31.
- 1892 FARLE, J The Introduction to his Translation (q v) gave a summary of the controversy, with "a constructive essay"

- 1892 BROOKE, STOFFORD A History of Early English Literature (Beowulf, pp 17-131) London Reviews McClumpha, *M L N.* viii, 27-9, 1892 (attacks in a letter of unnecessary violence), Wulker, *Angla, Beiblatt*, iv, 170-6, 225-33, Glode, *Engl Stud.* xxii, 264-70
- 1892 GUMMERE, F. B. Germanic Origins A study in primitive culture New York
- 1892 FERGUSON, R The Anglo-Saxon name Beowulf, *Athenæum*, June, 1892, p 763 See above, p 368
- 1892 HAACK, O Zeugnisse zur altenglischen Heldensage Kiel
- 1892 †KRAUS, K Hrodulf (P Moneta, zum 40 jahr Dienstjub ) Wien (p 4 etc )
- 1892 OLRIK, A. Er Uffesagnet indvandret fra England? *A f n F* viii (N F iv), 368-75
- 1892 SARRAZIN, G Die Abfassungszeit des Beowulfliedes, *Angla*, xiv, 399-415
- 1892 SIEVERS, E Sceaf in den nordischen Genealogien, *P B B* xvi, 361-3
- 1892 KÖGEL, R Beowulf, *Z f d A* xxxvii, 268-76 (Etymology of the name ) Discussed by Sievers, *P B B* xviii, 413 See above, p 367, footnote
- 1893 WARD, H L D Catalogue of Romances in the British Museum, Beowulf vol ii, pp 1-15, 741-3
- 1893 TEN BRINK, B Altenglische Literatur, *Pauls Grdr* (1), ii, i, 510-50 (Finnsburg, 545-50 )
- 1894 McNARY, S. J Beowulf and Arthur as English Ideals, *Poet-Lore*, vi, 529-36
- 1894 †DETTNER, F. Über die Heaðobarden im Beowulf, *Verhandl d Wiener Philologenversammlung*, Mai, 1893 Leipzig p 404 etc (Argues that the story is not historical, but mythical—*Ragnarok* )
- 1895 SIEVERS, E Beowulf und Saxo, *Berichte der kgl sachs Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, xlvii, 175-93 (Important, see above, pp 90-7 )
- 1895 BRÄZ, G Zeugnisse zur germanischen sage in England, *P B B* xx, 141-223 (A most useful collection, though the significance of many of the names collected is open to dispute )
- 1895 KLUGE, F. Zeugnisse zur germanischen sage in England, *Engl Stud* xxi, 446-8
- 1895-6 KLUGE, F. Der Beowulf u die Hrolfs Saga Kraka, *Engl Stud* xxii, 144-5
- 1896 SARRAZIN, G Neue Beowulf-studien, *Engl Stud* xxiii, 221-67
- 1897 KER, W P. Epic and Romance London (Beowulf, pp 182-202 Important See above, p 116 ) Reviews Fischer, *Angla, Beiblatt*, x, 133-5, Brandl, *Archiv*, c, 198-200 New edit 1908
- 1897 BLACKBURN, F. A The Christian coloring in the Beowulf, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xii, 205-25 (See above, p 125 )
- 1897 SARRAZIN, G Die Hirschhülle, *Angla*, xix, 368-92, Der Balder kultus in Lethra, *ibid* 392-7, Rolf Krake und sein Vetter im Beowulfliede, *Engl Stud* xxiv, 144-5 (Important See above, p 31 )
- 1897 HENNING, R Sceaf und die westsächsische Stammtafel, *Z f d A* xli, 156-69
- 1898 ARNOLD, T Notes on Beowulf London Reviews Hulme, *M L N* xv, 22-6, 1900, Sarrazin, *Engl Stud* xxviii, 410-18, Garnett, *Amer Jour of Phil* xx, 443
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- 1899 AXON, W E A A reference to the evil eye in Beowulf, *Transactions of the Royal Soc. of Literature*, London. (Very slight ) "

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- 1901 POWELL, F YORK Beowulf and Watanabe-No-Tsema, *Furnivall Miscellany*, pp 395-6 Oxford (A parallel from Japanese legend)
- 1901 LEHMANN, E Fandens Oldemor, *Dania*, viii, 179-94 Repeated ("Teuffels Grossmutter"), *Archiv f Religionswiss* viii, 411-30 (See above, p 49, note, and p 381)
- 1901 †OTTO, E Typische Motive in dem weltlichen Epos der Angelsachsen Berlin Reviews Binz, *Engl Stud* xxxii, 401-5, *Spies, Archiv*, cxv, 222
- 1901 UHLENBECK, C C Het Beowulf-epos als geschiedbron, *Tijdschrift voor nederlandse taal- en letterkunde*, xx (N R xii), 169-96
- 1902 GEROULD, G H Offa and Lebhraadh Maen, *M L N* xvii, 201-3 (An Irish parallel of the story of the dumb young prince)
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- 1902 BOER, R C Die Beowulfsage I Mythische reconstructionen, II Historische untersuchung der uberlieferung, *A f n F* xix (N F xv), 19-88
- 1902 BRANDL, A Ueber den gegenwartigen Stand der Beowulf-Forschung, *Archiv*, cviii, 152-5
- 1903 ANDERSON, L F The Anglo-Saxon Scop (*Univ of Toronto Studies*, *Phil Ser* 1) Review Heusler, *A f d A* xxxi, 113-5
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- 1903 HART, J M Allotria [on the forms *Bēanstan*, l 524 and *Þrydo*, l 1931], *M L N* xviii, 117
- 1903 STJERNA, K Hjalmar och svard i Beowulf, *Studier tillagnade O Montelius*, 99-120 Stockholm See above, pp 346 etc
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- 1904 HAGEN, S N Classical names and stories in Beowulf, *M L N* xix, 65-74 and 156-65 (Very fantastic)
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- 1904 †VETTER, F Beowulf und das altdeutsche Heldenzeitalter in England, *Deutschland*, iii, 558-71.
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- 1905 SCHÜCKING, L. L. Beowulfs Rückkehr (*Morsbachs Studien*, xxi) Halle (Important see above, pp 118-20) Review Brandl, *Archiv*, cxy, 421-3 (dissenting)
- 1905 SCHUCK, H. Studier i Ynglingatal, i-iii i Uppsala
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- 1905 STJERNA, K. Skolds hadanfard, *Studier tillagnade H. Schück*, 110-34 Stockholm
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- 1905-6 RIEGER, M. Zum Kampf in Finnsburg, *Zfd A* xlviii, 9-12
- 1905-6 HEUSLER, A. Zur Skjoldungendichtung, *Zfd A* xlviii, 57-87
- 1905-6 NECKEL, J. Studien über Fróði, *Zfd A* xlviii, 163-86
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- 1906 SKEMP, A. R. Transformation of scriptural story, motive, and conception in Anglo-Saxon poetry, *Mod Phil* iv, 423-70
- 1906 DUFF, J. W. Homer and Beowulf a literary parallel, *Saga-Book of the Viking Club* London
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- 1907 CHADWICK, H. M. "Early National Poetry," in *Cambridge History of English Literature*, vol i, 19-32, 421-3 Important See above, pp 122-6
- 1907 HART, WALTER MORRIS. Ballad and Epic Boston *Harvard Studies and Notes in Philology and Literature* (Important see above, p 116) Review *Archiv*, cxix, 468
- 1907 ORSKOV, A. Nordisk Aandsliv i Vikingetid og tidlig Middelalder København og Kristiania (Translated into German by W. Ranssch, 1908, as "Nordisches Geistesleben.")

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- 1907 COOK, A S. Various notes, *M L N* xxi, 146-7 (Further classical parallels to Beowulf, 1408 ff., in succession to a parallel from Seneca quoted in *M L N* xvii, 209-10)
- 1907 SARRAZIN, G. Zur Chronologie u. Verfasserfrage Aeg. Dichtungen, *Engl. Stud.* xxxviii, 145 etc., esp. 170-95 (Das Beowulflied und die ältere Genesis).
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- 1908 SCHÜCKING, L. L. Das Angelsächsische Totenklagehied, *Engl. Stud.* xxxix, 1-13.
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- 1908 GRAU, G. Quellen u. Verwandtschaften der älteren germanischen Darstellungen des jüngsten Gerichtes. Halle. (See esp. pp 145-56.) Review Guntermann, *Z f d Ph* xli, 401-415.
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- 1909 LAWRENCE, W. W. Some disputed questions in Beowulf criticism, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxiv, 220-73 (Very important.) Review Brandl, *Archiv*, cxxiii, 473.
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- 1909 DEUTSCHBEIN, M. Die Sagenhistorischen u. literarischen Grundlagen des Beowulfepos, *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift*, i, 103-19.
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- (*ZfdPh* XLIII, 383-94) and the briefer ones of Lawrence (*M L N* XXVII, 57-60) Sedgefield (*M L R* VI, 128-31) and Golther (*Neue Jahrbücher f. das klassische Altertum*, XXV, 610-13))
- 1910 BRADLEY, H. Beowulf, in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, III, pp. 758-61. (Important. See above, pp 121, 127-8)
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- 1911-19 HEUSLER, A. A series of articles in Hoops' *Reallexikon Beowulf, Dichtung, Ermenrich, Gautensagen, Heldensage, Hengest, Heremod, Offa, Skjöldungar, Ynglingar, etc* Strassburg (Important)
- 1911 NECKEL, G. Ragnacharius von Cambrai, *Festschrift zur Jahrhundertfeier der Universität zu Breslau = Mitteil d. Schlesischen Gesellschaft für Volkskunde*, XIII-XIV, 121-54 (A historical parallel between the treatment of Ragnachar by Chlodowech and that of Hrethric by Hrothulf)
- 1911 SCHÖNFELD, M. Wörterbuch der altgermanischen Personen- und Völkernamen Heidelberg See also Schütte, Note til Schönfelds Navne-påmaling, in *A f n F* XXXIII, 22-49
- 1911 KLAEBER, F. Aeneis und Beowulf, *Archiv*, CXXVI, 40-8, 339-59 (Important see above, p 330)
- 1911 LIEBERMANN, F. Grendel als Personennamen, *Archiv*, CXXVI, 180
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- 1912 BOER, R. C. Die Altenglische Heldendichtung i Beowulf. Halle (Important) Reviews Jantzen, *Z f französische u englische Unterricht*, XIII, 546-7, Berendsohn, *Literaturblatt*, XXXV, 152-4, Dybowski, *Allgemeines Literaturblatt*, XXII, 1913, 497-9, Imelmann, *D L Z* XXXIV, 1913, 1062-6 (weighty criticisms), Barnouw, *Myrum*, XXI, 53-8.

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- 1912 MEYER, W. Beiträge zur Geschichte der Eroberung Englands Dissertation, Halle. (Finn story)
- 1912 LAWRENCE, W W The haunted mere in Beowulf *Pub. Mod Lang Assoc Amer.* xxvii, 208-45 (Important See above, pp 52-3)
- 1912 SCHÜTTE, G The Geats of Beowulf, *J E G Ph* xi, 574-602 (See above, pp. 8, 333 etc)
- 1912 STEFANOVIĆ, S Ein beitrage zur angelsächsischen Offa-sage, *Anglia*, xxxv, 483-525
- 1912 MUCH, R Orendel, *Wörter u Sachen*, iv, 170-3 (Deriving *Vendsyssel*, Vandal, and the *Wendle* of Beowulf from *wandil*—"a bough, wand.")
- 1912 CHAMBERS, R W Six thirteenth century drawings illustrating the story of Offa and of Thryth (Drida) from *MS Cotton Nero, D I* London, privately printed.
- 1913 FAHLBECK, P Beowulfekvadet som kalla for nordisk fornhistoria (Stockholm, *N F K Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar*, 13, 3) Review Klæber, *Engl Stud* xlviii, 435-7.
- 1913 NERMAN, B Studier över Svarges hedna litteratur Uppsala
- 1913 NERMAN, B Vilka konungar ligga i Uppsala hogar? Uppsala
- 1913 LAWRENCE, W W The Breca episode in Beowulf (Anniversary papers to G L Kittredge) Boston
- 1913 SARAZIN, G Von Kadmon bis Kynewulf Berlin *Reviews Dudley, J E G Ph* xv, 313-17, Berendsohn, *Literaturblatt*, xxxv (1914), 386-8 Funke, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxi, 121-33
- 1913 THOMAS, P G Beowulf and Daniel A, *M L R* viii, 537-9 (Parallels between the two poems)
- 1913 BELDEN, H M Onela the Scylfing and Ah the Bold, *M L N* xxviii, 149-53
- 1913 STEDMAN, D Some points of resemblance between Beowulf and the Grettla (or Grettis Saga) From the *Saga Book of the Viking Club*, London (It should have been held unnecessary to prove the relationship yet once again)
- 1913 VON SYDOW, C W Irisches in Beowulf<sup>1</sup> (*Verhandlungen der 52 Versammlung deutscher Philologen in Marburg*, pp 177-80)
- 1913 BERENDSOHN, W A Drei Schichten dichterischer Gestaltung im Beowulf-epos, *Münchener Museum*, II, 1, pp 1-33
- 1913 DEUTSCHBEIN, M Beowulf der Gautenkönig, *Festschrift für Lorenz Morebach*, Halle, pp 291-7, *Morsbachs Studien*, L (Very important Expresses very well, and with full working out of details, the doubts which some of us had already felt as to the historic character of the reign of Beowulf over the Geatas)

<sup>1</sup> Most students nowadays will probably agree with v Sydow's contention that the struggle of Beowulf, first above ground and then below, is a folk-story, one and indivisible, and that therefore there is no reason for attributing the two sections to different authors, as do Boer, Mullenhoff and ten Brink. But that the folk-tale is exclusively Celtic remains to be proved, v Sydow's contention that Celtic influence is shown in *Beowulf* by the inhospitable shamelessness of Unferth (compare that of Kai) is surely fanciful. Also the statement that the likeness of Bjarki and Beowulf is confined to the freeing of the Danish palace from a dangerous monster by a stranger from abroad, and that "das sonstige Beiwerk völlig verschieden ist" surely cannot be maintained. As argued above (pp 54-61) there are other distinct points of resemblance.

v Sydow's statement no doubt suffers from the brevity with which it is reported, and his forthcoming volume of *Beowulf studien* will be awaited with interest.

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- 1913 KLAEBER, F Das Grändelsmör—eine Frage, *Archiv*, cxxxi, 427.
- 1913 BRATE, E Betydelsen av ortnamnet Skalv [cf. Scilfingas], *Namn och Bygd*, I, 102-8
- 1914 MULLER, J Das Kulturbild des Beowulfepos Halle *Morsbachs Studien*, lxx Reviews Klaeber, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxvii, 241-4, Brunner, *Archiv*, cxxxviii, 242-3
- 1914 MOORMAN, F. W English place-names and Teutonic Sagas, in *Essays and Studies by members of the English Association*, vol v, pp 75-103 (Argues that "Gilling" and other place names in Yorkshire, point to an early colony of Scandinavian "Gautar," who may have been instrumental in introducing Scandinavian traditions into England.)
- 1914 OLSON, O L Beowulf and the Feast of Brictiu, *Mod Phil* xi, 407-27 (Emphasises the slight character of the parallels noted by Deutschbein)
- 1914 VON SYDOW, C W Grendel i anglosaxiska ortnamn, in *Nordiska Ortnamn, hyllningskräft tillagnad Adolf Noreen*, Uppsala, pp 170-4 = *Namn och Bygd*, II (Important)
- 1915 KIER, CHR. Beowulf, et Bidrag til Nordens Oldhistorie København (An elaborate and painstaking study of the historic problems of Beowulf, vitiated throughout by quite unjustifiable assumptions See above, p 333 etc.) Review Björkman, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxvii, 244-6
- 1915 BRADLEY, H The Numhered Sections in Old English Poetical MSS, *Proc. Brit Acad* vol vii
- 1915 LAWRENCE, W W Beowulf and the tragedy of Finnsburg, *Pub Mod. Lang Assoc Amer* xxx, 372-431 (Important An excellent survey of the Finnsburg problems)
- 1915 VAN SWERINGEN, G F The main types of men in the Germanic Hero-Sagas, *J E G Ph* xiv, 212-25
- 1915-19 LINDROTH, H. Är Skåne de gamles Scadinavia? *Namn och Bygd*, III, 1915, 10-28 Lindroth denied that the two words are the same, and was answered by A Kock (*A f n F* xxxiv, 1917, 71 etc.), A Noreen (in *Studier tillägn E Tegnér*, 1918) and E Björkman ("Scodeland, Scodenig," *Namn och Bygd*, vi, 1918, 162-8) Lindroth replied ("Äro Scadinavia och Skåne samma ord," *A f n F* xxxv, 1918, 29 etc., and "Skandinavien och Skåne," *Namn och Bygd*, vi, 1918, 104-12) and was answered by Kock ("Vidare om Skåne och Scadinavia," *A f n F* xxxvi, 74-85) Björkman's discussion is the one of chief importance to students of Beowulf.
- 1915 KLAEBER, F Observations on the Finn episode, *J E G Ph* xiv, 544-9
- 1915 ANSCOMBE, A. Beowulf in High-Dutch saga, *Notes and Queries*, Aug 21, 1915, pp 133-4
- 1915 BERENDSOHN, WALTER A Die Gelage am Dänenhof zu Ehren Beowulfs, *Münchener Museum*, III, 1, 31-55
- 1915-16 PIZZO, E Zur frage der ästhetischen einheit des Beowulf, *Anglia*, xxxix, 1-15 (Sees in Beowulf the uniform expression of the early Anglo-Saxon Christian ideal)
- 1916 OLSON, O L The relation of the Hrólf's Saga Kraka and the Bjarkarímur to Beowulf Chicago (Olson emphasises that the monster slain by Bjarki in the *Saga* does not attack the hall, but the cattle outside, and is therefore a different kind of monster from Grendel (p 30) But he does not disprove the general equation of Beowulf and Bjarki many of the most striking points of resemblance, such as the support given to Eadguls (Athils) against Onela (Ah), lie outside the scope of his study. Review. Hollander, *J.E.G Ph* xvi, 147-9

- 1916 NECKEL, G. Adel und gefolgschaft, *P B B* xli, 385-436 (esp pp. 410 ff for social conditions in Beowulf)
- 1917 FLOM, G. T. Alliteration and Variation in Old Germanic name giving *M L N* xxxii, 7-17
- 1917 MEAD, G. W. Wiðerzylð of Beowulf, 2051, *M L N* xxxii, 135-6 (Suggests, very reasonably, that Wiðerzylð is the father of the young Heathobard warrior who is stirred to revenge)
- 1917 AYRES, H. M. The tragedy of Hengest in Beowulf, *J. E. G. Ph* xvi, 282-95 (See above, pp. 266-7)
- 1917 AURNER, N. S. An analysis of the interpretations of the Finnsburg documents (*Univ. of Iowa Monographs Humanistic Studies*, i, 6)
- 1917 BJÖRKMAN, E. Zu ae Eote, Yte, usw., dan Jyder, "Juten," *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxviii, 275-80\* (See above, p. 334)
- 1917 ROTH, E. G. T. Der name Grendel in der Beowulfsage. *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxviii, 335-40. (Etymologies "Grendel is the "sandman," a man-eating monster of the sea-bottom. With this, compare Panzer's interpretation of Grendel as the "earthman" See above, p. 309)
- 1917 SCHÜCKING, L. L. Wann entstand der Beowulf? Glossen, Zweifel und Fragen, *P B B* xlii, 347-410 (Important. See above, pp. 322-32)
- 1917 FOG, REGINALD. Trolden "Grendel" i Bjovulf en hypothese, *Danske Studier*, 1917, 134-40 (Grendel is here interpreted as an infectious disease, prevalent among those who sleep in an ill-ventilated hall in a state of intoxication, but to which Beowulf, whose health has been confirmed by a recent sea-voyage, is not liable. This view is not as new as its author believes it to be, and a letter from von Holsten Rathlau is added, pointing this out. It might further have been pointed out that as early as 1879 Grendel was explained as the malaria. Cf. the theories of Laistner, Kogel and Golther, and see above, p. 46)
- 1917 NEUHAUS, J. Sillende = vetus patria = Angel, *Nordisk Tidskrift för Filologi*, iv Række, Bd. v, 125-6, Helges Prinsesse Sváva = Eider = den svebiske Flod hos Ptolemæos, vi, 29-32, Halldan = Frode = Hadbardernes Konge, hvis Rige forenes med det danske, vi, 78-80, Vestgermaniske Navne i dansk Historie og Sprog, 141-4. The inherent difficulty of the subject is enhanced by the obscurity of the writer's style but much of the argument (e.g. that Halldan and Frode are identical) is obviously based upon quite reckless conjectures. The question is complicated by political feeling many of Neuhaus' arguments are repeated in his pamphlet, *Die Frage von Nordschleswig im Lichte der neuesten vorgeschichtlichen Untersuchungen*, Jena, 1919. His theories were vigorously refuted by G. SCHÜRTE "Urjyske 'Vestgermaner,'" *Nordisk Tidskrift för Filologi*, iv Række, Bd. vii, 129 etc.
- 1917 †FREDBERG. Det första årtalet i Sveriges historia. Umeå
- 1917 NERMAN, B. Ynglingasagan i arkeologisk belysning, *Fornvännen*, 1917, 226-61
- 1917 NERMAN, B. Ottar Vendelkråka och Ottarshogen i Vendel, *Upplands Fornminnesförenings Tidskrift*, vii, 309-34
- 1917 BJÖRKMAN, E. Beowulf och Sveriges Historia, *Nordisk Tidskrift*, 1917, 161-79
- 1917-18 †VON SYDOW, C. W. Draken som skattevaktare, *Danmarks folke-minder*, xvii, 103 etc.
- 1918 HACKENBERG, E. Die Stammtafeln der angelsächsischen Königreiche, Dissertation, Berlin (A useful collection.) Reviews Fischer, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxi, 73-4, Ekwall, *Engl. Stud.* liv, 307-10, Liebermann, *D. L. Z.* 1 March, 1919
- 1918 LAWRENCE, W. W. The dragon and his lair in Beowulf, *Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* xxxiii, 547-83.

- 1918 BELDEN, H. M. Beowulf 62, once more, *M.L.N.* XXXIII, 123
- 1918 BELDEN, H. M. Scyld Scefing and Hwuc Finn, *M.L.N.* XXXIII, 315.
- 1918 KLAEBER, F. Concerning the relation between Exodus and Beowulf, *M.L.N.* XXXIII, 218-24
- 1918 BJÖRKMAN, E. Bëow, Bëaw, und Bëowulf, *Engl. Stud.* LII, 145-93. (Very important See above, p 304)
- 1918 BRANDL, A. Die Urstammtafel der Westsachsen und das Beowulf-Epos, *Archiv*, CXXXVII, 6-24 (See above, p 200, note)
- 1918 BRANDL, A. Die urstammtafel der englischen könige, *Sitzungsberichte d. k. preuss. Akad., Phil.-Hist. Classe*, p 5 (Five line summary only published)
- 1918 †BJÖRKMAN, E. Bëowulf-forskning och mytologi, *Finsk Tidskrift*, 151 etc. (Cf *Anglia. Beiblatt*, xxx, 207)
- 1918 BJÖRKMAN, E. Skoldungaattens mytiska stamfader, *Nordisk Tidskrift*, 163 etc
- 1919 v UNWERTH, W. Eine schwed. Heldensage als deutsches Volksepos, *Afn F.* XXXV, 113-37 (An attempt to connect the story of Hygelac and Hæthcyn with the M.H.G. *Herbert der Tenelant*)
- 1918 NEUBAUS, J. Om Skjold, *Afn F.* XXXV, 166-72 (A dogmatic assertion of errors in Olrik's arguments in the *Helledgting*)
- 1918 CLAUSEN, H. V. Kong Hugleik, *Danske Studier*, 137-49 (Conjectures based upon the assumption Geatas = Jutes)
- 1918 †LUND University "Festschrift" contains NORLUND, Skattsagner, von SYDOW, Sigurds strid med Fæve
- 1919 OLRIK, A. The heroic legends of Denmark translated and revised in collaboration with the author by Lee M. Hollander New York (Very important) Review Flom, *J.E.G.P.* xix, 284-90
- 1919 BJÖRKMAN, E. Bedwig in den westsachsichen genealogien, *Anglia. Beiblatt*, xxx, 23
- 1919 BJÖRKMAN, E. Zu einigen Namen im Bëowulf *Breca, Brondingas, Wealhþëo(w)*, *Anglia. Beiblatt*, xxx, 170-80
- 1919 MOGK, E. Altgermanische Spukgeschichten. Zugleich ein Beitrag zur Erklärung der Grendel-episode im Beowulf, *Neue Jahrbücher für das klass. Altertum und deutsche Literatur*, XXXIV, 103-17 (Mogk here abandons his older allegorical interpretation of Grendel as the destroying power of the sea, and sees in the Grendel-story a Germanic ghost tale, poetically adorned.)
- 1919 BJÖRKMAN, E. Skjalt och Skilfing [edited by E. Ekwall, with a note on Bjorkman's work], *Namn och Bygd*, VII, 163-81
- 1919 LINDERHOLM, E. Vendelshogens konunganamn i socknens 1600 tals-tradition, *Namn och Bygd*, VII, 36-40
- 1919 FOG, R. Bjarkemaals "Hjalte," *Danske Studier*, 1919, 29-35 (With a letter from A. Olrik)
- 1919 SEVERINSEN, P. Kong Hugleiks Dødsaar, *Danske Studier*, 1919, 96
- 1920 IMELMANN, R. Forschungen zur altenglischen Poesie (IX Hengest u Finn, X *Engc anpaðas, uncud gelad*, XII *Þrijðo*, XIII *Hæþenra hyht.*) Berlin (A weighty statement of some original views)
- 1920 BJÖRKMAN, E. Studien über die Eigennamen im Beowulf Halle *Morsbachs Studien*, LVIII. (An extremely valuable and discriminating digest See above, p 304)
- 1920 BAHTO, P. S. The Swan-ritter-Sceaf Myth in *Perceval le Gallois*, *J.E.G.P.* XIX, 190-200
- 1920 HUBBARD, F. G. The plundering of the Hoard. *Univ. Wisconsin Stud.* 11.

- 1920 SCHÜCKING, L. L. Wiðergyld (Beowulf, 2051), *Engl. Stud.* LIII, 468-70. (Sohuchang, like Mead, but independently, interprets Withergyld as the name of the warrior whose son is being started to revenge)
- 1920 BJÖRKMAN, E. Hæðcyn und Håkon, *Engl. Stud.* LIV, 24-34
- 1920 HOOPS, J. Das Verhullen des Haupts bei Toten, ein angelsächsisch-nordischer Brauch (Zu Beowulf, 446, *hafalan hýðan*), *Engl. Stud.* LIV, 19-23.
- 1920 NOREEN, A. Yngve, Inge, Inglinge [Ingwine], *Namn och Bygd*, VIII, 1-8
- 1920 LA COUR, V. Lejrestudier, *Danske Studier*, 1920, 49-67 (Weighty Emphasizing the importance of the site of Leire in the sixth century) A discussion on the date and origin of Beowulf, by LIEBERMANN, is about to appear (*Gott. Gelehrt. Gesellschaft*)

### § 9 STYLE AND GRAMMAR

Titles already given in previous sections are not repeated here. General treatises on OE style and grammar are recorded here only if they have a special and exceptional bearing upon *Beowulf*.

- 1873 LICHTENHELD, A. Das schwache adjectiv im ags., *ZfdA* XVI, 325-93. (Important. See above, pp. 105-7)

- 1875 HEINZEL, R. Über den Stil der altgermanschen Poesie. Strassburg (*Quellen u. Forschungen*, x) (Important and suggestive led to further studies on the style of Beowulf, such as those of Hoffmann and Bode.) Review Zimpfer, *AfdA* II, 294-300

- 1877 ARNDT, O. Über die altgerm. epische Sprache. Paderborn

- 1877 SCHÖNBACH, A. [A discussion of words peculiar to sections of Beowulf, added to a review of Ettmüller's Beowulf], *AfdA* III, 36-46. See also Möller, *Volksepos*, 60 etc.

- 1879 NADER, E. Zur Syntax des Beowulf. *Progr. der Staats-Ober-Realschule*, in Brunn. Review Bernhardt, *Literaturblatt*, 1880, 439-40 (unfavourable reply by Nader and answer by Bernhardt, 1881, 119-20)

- 1881 GUMMERE, F. B. The Anglo-Saxon metaphor. Dissertation, Marburg

- 1882 SCHEMANN, K. Die Synonyma im Beowulfshede, mit Rücksicht auf Composition u. Poetik des Gedichtes. Hagen. Dissertation, Münster (Examines the use of noun-synonyms in the different sections of the poem as divided by Mullenhoff, and finds no support for Mullenhoff's theories.) Review Kluge, *Literaturblatt*, 1883, 62-3

- 1882 NADER, E. Der Genitiv im Beowulf. Brunn. Review Klinghardt, *Engl. Stud.* VI, 288

- 1882 SCHULZ, F. Die Sprachformen des Hildebrand-Liedes im Beowulf. Königsberg

- 1883 NADER, E. Dativ u. Instrumental im Beowulf. Wien. Review. Klinghardt, *Engl. Stud.* VII, 368-70

- 1883 HARRISON, J. A. List of irregular (strong) verbs in Beowulf, *Amer. Jour. of Phil.* IV, 462-77

- 1883 HOFFMANN, A. Der bildliche Ausdruck im Beowulf u. in der Edda, *Engl. Stud.* VI, 163-216

- 1886 BODE, W. Die Kenningar in der angelsächsischen Dichtung. Darmstadt and Leipzig. Reviews: Gummere, *MLN* II, 17-19 (important—praises Bode highly), Kluge, *Engl. Stud.* x, 117, Brandl, *DLZ* 1887, 897-8, Bischoff, *Archiv*, LXXIX, 115-6, Meyer, *AfdA* XIII, 136

- 1886 KÖHLER, K. Der syntaktische gebrauch des Infinitivs und Particips im Beowulf. Dissertation, Münster

- 1886 FANNING, A. Die epischen Formeln im Beowulf. I. Die verbalen synonyma. Dissertation, Marburg



- 1887 TOLMAN, A. H. The style of Anglo-Saxon poetry, *Trans Mod Lang. Assoc Amer* III, 17-47.
- 1888-9 NADEB, E Tempus und modus im Beowulf, *Anglia*, x, 542-63; xi, 444-99.
- 1889 KAIL, F Über die Parallelstellen in der Ags Poesie, *Anglia*, xii, 21-40. (A *reductio ad absurdum* of the theories of Sarrazin. Important.)
- 1891 DAVIDSON, C The Phonology of the Stressed Vowels in Beowulf, *Pub Mod. Lang Assoc Amer.* vi, 106-33 Review Karsten, *Engl Stud.* xvii, 417-20.
- 1892 SONNEFELD, G Stilistisches und Wortschatz im Beowulf. Dissertation, Strassburg. Würzburg
- 1893 TODT, A. Die Wortstellung im Beowulf, *Anglia*, xvi, 226-60.
- 1898 KISTENMACHER, R Die wortlichen Wiederholungen im Beowulf Dissertation, Greifswald Reviews Mead, *J (E)G Ph* II, 546-7, Kaluza, *Engl. Stud* xxvii, 121-2 (short but valuable)
- 1902 BARNOUW, A J Textkritische Untersuchungen nach dem gebrauch des bestimmten Artikels und des schwachen Adjektivs in der altenglischen Poesie Leiden (Important, see above, p 107.) Reviews: Kock, *Engl. Stud* xxxii, 228-9, Binz, *Zfd Ph* xxxvi, 269-74, Schucking, *Göttingische gelehrte Anzeigen*, 1905, 730-40
- 1902 HEUSLER, A Der dialog in der altgermanischen erzählenden Dichtung. *Zfd A* xli, 189-284
- 1903 SHIPLEY, G The genitive case in Anglo-Saxon Poetry Baltimore. Reviews Kock, *Engl Stud* xxv, 92-5, Mourek, *Afd A* xxx, 172-4
- 1903 KRACKOW, O Die Nominalcomposita als Kunstmittel im altenglischen Epos Dissertation, Berlin Review Björkman, *Archiv*, cxvii, 189-90
- 1904 SCHUCKING, L L Die Grundzüge der Satzverknüpfung im Beowulf. Pt I (*Morsbachs Studien*, xv) Halle (Important) Reviews Eckhardt, *Engl Stud* xxxvii, 396-7; Pogatscher, *D L Z* 1905, 922-3, Rehagel, *Literaturblatt*, xxviii, 100-2, Grossmann, *Archiv*, cxviii, 176-9
- 1904 HAUSCHKE, B. Die Technik der Erzählung im Beowulfliede Dissertation, Breslau
- 1905 KRAPE, G P The parenthetic exclamation in Old English poetry, *M L N* xx, 33-7.
- 1905 SCHEINERT, M Die Adjektiva im Beowulfepos als Darstellungsmittel, *P B B* xxx, 345-430
- 1906 THOMAS, P G Notes on the language of Beowulf, *M L R* I, 202-7 (A short summary of the dialectal forms)
- 1906 BARNOUW, A J. Nochmals zum ags Gebrauch des Artikels, *Archiv*, cxvii, 366-7.
- 1907 RIES, J Die Wortstellung im Beowulf Halle (An important and exhaustive study by an acknowledged specialist) Reviews Binz, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxii, 65-78 (important), Borst, *Engl Stud* xlii, 93-101, Delbruck, *Afd A* xxxi, 65-76 (important), Reis, *Literaturblatt*, xxviii, 328-30, *Lit Cbl.* 1907, p. 1474, Huchon, *Revue germanique*, III, 634-8
- 1908 KRAUEL, H. Der Haken- und Langzeilenstil im Beowulf Dissertation, Göttingen
- 1908 LOBS, A Aktionsarten des Verbums im Beowulf Dissertation, Würzburg
- 1908 †MOUREK, E. Zur Syntax des konjunktivs im Beowulf, *Prager deutsche stud* viii
- 1909-10 RANKIN, J W A study of the Kennings in Ags poetry, *J. F. G. I. h.* viii, 357-422, ix, 49-84. (Latin parallels, very important.)

- 1909 SHEARIN, H G The expression of purpose in Old English poetry, *Anglia*, xxxii, 235-52.
- 1909 †RIGGERT, G. Der syntaktische Gebrauch des Infinitivs in der alt-englischen Poesie Dissertation, Kiel
- 1910 RICHTER, C Chronologische Studien zur angelsächsischen Literatur auf grund sprachl.-metrischer Kriterien Halle (*Morsbachs Studien*, xxxiii) Reviews Binz, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxii, 78-80, Imelmann, *D L Z* 1910, 2988-7, Hecht, *Archiv*, cxxx, 430-2.
- 1910 WAGNER, R. Die Syntax des Superlativs im Beowulf Berlin (*Palaestra*, xci) Reviews Schatz, *D L Z* 1910, 2848-9, Kock, *A f n F.* xxviii, 347-9
- 1910 SCHUCHARDT, R Die negation im Beowulf Berlin (*Berliner Beiträge zur germ u roman Philol* xxxviii)
- 1912 BRIGHT, J W An Idiom of the Comparative in Anglo-Saxon, *M. L N.* xxvii, 181-3 (Bearing particularly upon Beowulf, 69, 70)
- 1912 EXNER, P Typische Adverbialbestimmungen in frühenglischer Poesie. Dissertation, Berlin
- 1912 GRIMM, P Beiträge zum Pluralgebrauch in der altenglischen Poesie Dissertation, Halle
- 1913 PAETZEL, W Die Variationen in der altgermanischen Alliterationspoesie Berlin See pp 73-84 for Beowulf and Finnshurg (*Palaestra*, XLVIII) Pt I had appeared in 1905 as a Berlin dissertation

## § 10 METRE

For bibliography of O E metre in general, see *Pauls Grdr* (2), II, 1022-4.

- 1870 SCHUBERT, H De Anglosaxonum arte metrica Dissertatio inauguralis, Berolini
- 1884 SIEVERS, E Zur rhythmik des germanischen alliterationsverses I. Vor- bemerkungen Die metrik des Beowulf II Sprachliche Ergebnisse, *P B B* x, 209-314 and 451-545 (Most important)
- 1894 KALUZA, M Studien zum altgermanischen alliterationsvers I Kritik der bisherigen theorien II Die Metrik des Beowulfliedes (Important) Reviews Martin, *Engl. Stud* xx, 293-6, Heusler, *A f d A* xxi, 313-17, Saran, *Z f d Ph* xxvii, 539-43
- 1905 TRAUTMANN, M Die neuste Beowulfausgabe und die altenglische vers- lehre, *Bonner Beiträge zur Anglistik*, xvii, 175-91 (A discussion of O E metre in view of Holthausen's edition) Review. Klæber, *M L N* xxii, 252
- 1908 MORGAN, B Q Zur lehre von der alliteration in der westgermanischen dichtung I Die tonverhältnisse der hebrungen im Beowulf II Die gekreuzte alliteration, *P B B* xxxiii, 95-181
- 1908 BOHLEN, A Zusammengehörige Wortgruppen, getrennt durch Cäsar oder Verschluss, in der angelsächsischen Epik Dissertation, Berlin Reviews Dittes, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xx, 199-202, Kroder, *Engl. Stud* xl, 90
- 1912 TRAUTMANN, M. Zum altenglischen Versbau, *Engl. Stud* xlii, 303-42
- 1913 SEIFFERT, F Die Behandlung der Wörter mit auslautenden ursprüng- lich silbischen Liquiden oder Nasalen und mit Kontraktionsvokalen in der Genesis A und im Beowulf Dissertation, Halle (Concludes the dialect of the two poems to be distinct, but finds no evidence on these grounds which is the earlier)
- 1914 FLIN VAN DRAAT, P The cursus in O E poetry, *Anglia*, xxxviii, 377-404
- 1918 LEONARD, W E Beowulf and the Niebelungen couplet, in *Univ. of Wisconsin Studies in Language and Literature*, II, 98-152. (Important Pp 123-46 advocating the "four-accent theory")
- 1920 †NEUNER, E Ueber ein- und dreihellige Halbverse in der altenglischen alliterierenden Poesie Berlin Review Bright, *M L N* xxxvi, 59-63.

# ADDITIONS TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY TO

6 1930

## § 1 PERIODICALS

Periodicals which have begun to appear since the first edition of this book was printed, and which will need to be frequently quoted, are

*R E S* = The Review of English Studies London, 1925 *etc.*

*Speculum* = Speculum, a journal of mediæval studies Cambridge, Mass., 1926 *etc.*

*Acta Phil Scand* = Acta Philologica Scandinavica, Tidsskrift for nordisk Sprog forskning København, 1926 *etc.*

## § 2 BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Bibliography of English Language and Literature, edited for the Modern Humanities Research Association by A C Paues (D Everett, E Seaton and M S Serjeantson) First issued in 1921, for the year 1920

The Year's Work in English Studies, edited for the English Association by Sir Sidney Lee (F S Boas and C H Herford) Vol 1, 1921, for the year 1919-20 (This gives a summary and criticism of work published during the year I quote it when it adds anything to the discussion relevant to *Beowulf*)

## § 3. THE MS AND ITS TRANSCRIPTS

1919 FÖRSTER, MAX Die Beowulf-Handschrift Leipzig Reviews (add to those already given) Keller, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxiv, 1-5, Hecht, *D L Z* xlii, 146-9, Preuzler, *Lit Cbl* lxxiii, 95, Binz, *Literaturblatt*, xli, 97, van Langenhove, *Leuvense Bijdragen*, xiii, 230-2, Kern, *English Studies* (Amsterdam), iii, 91-2

1921 RYLANDS, S I A contribution to the study of the Beowulf codex, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xxxvi, 167-35 (Suggests that the first of the two *Beowulf* describes the more accurate) Reviews and Comments (all doubting the correctness of Rypins' views) Hulbert, *Pub Mod Lang Assoc Amer* xliii, 1196-9, Ekwall, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxviii, 50, Hoops, *Engl Stud* lxi, 439

1924 RYPINS, S I Three Old English Prose Tracts in *MS Cotton Vitellius A 1 XV Early English Text Society* London and Oxford (The problems of the ms are discussed in the Introduction, pp vii-xxix For further important discussion and criticism of Rypins' view, see E V Gordon, *Year's Work*, v, 66-72) Reviews Magoun, *M L N* xlii, 67-70, Ekwall, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxviii, 48-52, Hoops, *Engl Stud* lxi, 435-40

1925 CRAIGIE, SIR W A Interpolations and omissions in Anglo-Saxon Poetic Texts *Philologica*, ii, 5-19 (Suggests that the archetype of the *Beowulf* ms was written on leaves containing a trifle over 31 lines, and that this accounts for difficulties at ll 31, 62, 139, 389, 403 *etc.* and above all for the Thryth episode, ll 1931-1962 This is contested by Klaeber in *Anglia*, L, 236-8, Klaeber does not think the evidence sufficient)

1928 HOOPS, JOHANNES Die Folierung der Beowulf-Handschrift *Engl. Stud.* lxiii, 1-11 (Hoops suggests that the old eighteenth-century numbering of the folios is the one which should be followed—as indeed it is by most editors—except for the portion affected by the leaf, formerly misplaced and numbered 131, which has now been restored to its correct position after the folio numbered 146 For this section Hoops suggests that the pages should be numbered as they now stand, the old erroneous numbers being placed within brackets This is probably the best way of meeting the difficulty)

- 1928 HULBERT, J. R. The Accuracy of the B-scribe of Beowulf *Pub Mod. Lang Assoc Amer* XLIII, 1194-9 Review: Daunt, *Year's Work*, ix, 71
- 1929 KELLER, WOLFGANG Zur Worttrennung in den angelsächsischen Handschriften. *Britannica, Max Förster zum sechzigsten Geburtstage*, 89-105
- 1929 PROKOSCH, E Two types of scribal error in the Beowulf ms *Studies in English Philology, a Miscellany in Honor of Frederick Klaeber*, ed by Kemp Malone and Martin B. Rund, 196-207

#### § 4. EDITIONS OF BEOWULF AND FINNSBURG

- 1918 SCHÜCKING, L L Beowulf 11, 12 Aufl Paderborn Reviews (add to those already given) van Langenhove, *Leuvenseche Bijdragen*, xiii, 234-5
- 1920 CHAMBERS, R W Beowulf with the Finnsburg Fragment, ed by A. J. WYATT, revised Second edit Cambridge Review. Jiriczek, *Die Neueren Sprachen*, xxix, 67-9
- 1922 KLAEBER, F Beowulf with the Fight at Finnsburg, edited with Introduction, Bibliography, Notes, Glossary and Appendices Boston (See above, pp 389-97) Reviews *Times Lit Sup* Feb 8, 1923, 95, Wardale, *Year's Work*, iv, 39-43, Lawrence, *J E G Ph* xxiii, 294-300 (weighty), Larsen, *Philol Quart* ii, 156-8, Menner, *Literary Review*, Jan 20, 1923, 394, Holthausen, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxiv, 353-7, Flasdieck, *Engl Stud* LVIII, 119-24 (contains a valuable discussion on the date of Beowulf), Hecht, *A f d A* XLIII, 46-51, Koek, *A f n F* xxxix, 185-9 (Most of these reviews are important)
- 1928 Re-issue, with supplement Review Kemp Malone, *J E G Ph* xxviii, 416-17
- 1929 HOLTHAUSEN, F Beowulf nebst den kleineren Denkmälern der Helden-sage 1 6 Aufl II 5 Aufl (Text and notes revised, supplement bringing bibliography to 1928) Reviews Kemp Malone, *Speculum*, v, 327-8, and also *J E G Ph* xxix, 611-3
- 1929 SCHÜCKING, L L Beowulf 13 Aufl Paderborn (No modifications since 1918 A new revision is promised)

Extracts will be found in Wyatt's *Anglo-Saxon Reader*, 1919, 1922, Sedgefield's *Anglo Saxon Verse Book*, 1922 (reviews Crawford, *M L R* xix, 104-8, Klaeber, *J E G Ph* xxiii, 122-3, Flasdieck, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxv, 165-6), Wyatt's *Threshold of Anglo-Saxon*, 1926, Turk's *Anglo-Saxon Reader*, 1927, Craigie's *Specimens of Anglo-Saxon Poetry*, in *Germanic Legend*, 1931

#### § 6 TRANSLATIONS

Translations of small portions of Beowulf are of interest during the very early period, before Kemble's translation of 1837 made knowledge of Beowulf general To the early translations of portions of Beowulf, mentioned on p 515 above the following should be added

- 1818 HENDERSON, E Iceland, or the Journal of a Residence between 1814 and 1815 (In vol ii, pp 329-330, there is a reference to "the poem which has lately been published by Etatsraad Thorkelm" Three quotations, with English translation, two of some length, follow) See also the second edition, 1819, p 517
- 1828 TAYLOR, W Historical Survey of German Poetry, 3 vols London (Vol i, pp 78-90) (Taylor attempts a summary of the whole poem, remarking that the notice of Sharon Turner is imperfect Turner had not carried his summary beyond 1 1698 But Taylor's attempt is not fortunate, and he often goes wrong where Turner, in his edition of 1820, had got the sense right)
- 1835 WRIGHT, THOMAS On Anglo-Saxon Poetry *Fraser's Magazine*, xii, 76-92 (Gives a good summary of the poem, and some extracts, with renderings into English These include the whole of Unferth's speech

against Beowulf, and Beowulf's reply. The translations are more accurate than anything which had yet appeared in English. The author mentions Kemble's translation as about to appear. The article is anonymous, but was reprinted in Wright's *Essays on England in the Middle Ages*, 1846.)

- 1838 LONGFELLOW, H. W. *Anglo-Saxon Literature The North American Review*, XLVII, 91-134. (Published anonymously. Such accuracy as this account of *Beowulf* possesses seems to be due to Conybeare. Kemble's "strong and faithful" translation was known to the writer only after his first sheets had gone to press, in time for him to add a note at the end. Longfellow gives a translation of Passus III (ll 189-257). This translation was later included (with others) in Longfellow's *Poets and Poetry of Europe*, 1845, and the whole article is included in his *Collected Prose* (Driftwood).)

After the publication of Kemble's translation, interest in *Beowulf* becomes common, and it is unnecessary to mention the various translations of extracts. Mention should however have been made of

- 1914 WEBSTER, A. BLYTH. Translation from Old English: a note and an experiment. *Essays and Studies by members of the English Association*, V, 153-71. (Gives translation of ll 4-52.)

- 1919 THOMAS, W. *Beowulf et les premiers fragments épiques anglo-saxons. Étude critique et traduction*. Paris.

- 1921 RYTTER, HENRIK. *Beowulf og Striden um Finnsborg. Frå angelsaksisk Oslo*. (Translated into landsmaal in alliterative verse.)

- 1921 SCOTT-MONCRIEFF, C. K. Widsith, Beowulf, Finnsburg, Waldere, Deor Done into common English after the old manner. With an Introduction by Viscount Northcliffe. *Review Klæber, Angla, Beiblatt*, XXXIV, 321-3.

- 1922 SPATH, J. DUNCAN. *Old English Poetry. Translations into alliterative verse with Introductions and Notes*. Princeton. (Includes translation of ~~the~~ most of *Beowulf*.) *Review McKillop, J E G Ph* XXIV, 279-81.

- 1923 LEONARD, W. E. *Beowulf a new verse translation*. New York and London. (With the Fight at Finnsburg. Metre based on that of the *Nibelungen Lied*.) *Reviews Croll, Literary Review*, July 7, 1923, 811, Lewisohn, (*New York*) *Nation*, CXVI, 660, Klæber, *Angla, Beiblatt*, XXXIV, 321-2, *Archiv*, CXLVII, 300.

- 1923 GORDON, R. K. *The Song of Beowulf. Rendered into English Prose*. London and New York.

- 1925 (1752) "GOTHIQUE" *The Oxford Magazine*, March 12. A translation of the opening and closing passages of *Beowulf* into heroic couplets, with the inscription "Copies of verses sent me by my worthy Friend, that ingenious Gentleman Mr Beach of Glostershire. His studies have lately lain much in our Gothic poetry 1752." (That an eighteenth-century antiquary should have translated portions of *MS Cotton Vitellius A XV* with such accuracy and understanding is not more unlikely than many suggestions regarding *Beowulf* which have been seriously put forward during the past ten years in learned periodicals of high repute, and which have then been not less seriously refuted in other not less learned academic publications. However, on subjecting the verses to critical analysis, I found in them a vigour of style and a real poetic force which I was inclined rather to associate with the present Merton Professor of English Language and Literature than with Mr Beach. Prof Wyld's *Experiments in translating Beowulf* confirms my suspicions. See below.)

- 1925 STRONG, SIR ARCHIBALD. *Beowulf, translated into Modern English rhyming verse, with Introduction and Notes. With a Foreword on "Beowulf*

- and the Heroic Age" by R. W. Chambers. London. Reviews: S. J. Crawford, *M L R.* xxii, 325-7, Blackman, *R E S.* iii, 115-16, E. V. Gordon, *Year's Work*, vi, 72-4, Ruud, *M L N.* xliii, 55, Klaeber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxvii, 257-60, Pompen, *English Studies* (Amsterdam), ix, 115-17
- 1926 CRAWFORD, D. H. Beowulf, translated into English verse, with an Introduction, Notes and Appendices. London and New York. Reviews: S. J. Crawford, *M L R.* xxii, 325-7, Blackman, *R E S.* iii, 237-9, Daunt, *Year's Work*, vii, 60, Kemp Malone, *M L N.* xlii, 202-3, MacLean, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxviii, 312-14
- 1929 BRANDL, ALOIS. Der Saalkampf im Finns Burg. *Britannica, Max Förster zum sechzigsten Geburtstage*, 23-5 (A translation of the "Fragment" into alliterative verse)
- 1929 WYLD, H. C. Experiments in translating Beowulf. *Studies in English Philology, a Miscellany in Honor of Frederick Klaeber*, ed. by Kemp Malone and Martin B. Ruud, 217-31 (Translations of selected passages into various metres and styles in the manner of Pope, Longfellow's *Hiawatha*, Tennyson, and into hexameters)
- 1929 GERING. Beowulf nebst dem Finnsburg-Bruchstück, übersetzt und erläutert. 2te Auflage. Heidelberg

## § 7 TEXTUAL CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION

See also § 9, Vocabulary

- 1915 CLASSEN, E. O. E. *Nicras* (*Beowulf*, ll 422, 575, 845, 1427) *M L R.* x, 85-6
- 1921 BUSH, J. D. A Note on Beowulf, 1600-5. *M L N.* xxxvi, 251
- 1921 SEDGEFIELD, W. J. Miscellaneous Notes. The Fight at Finnsburg (ll 35, 40) *M L R.* xvi, 59
- 1921-2 KOCK, E. A. Interpretations and Emendations of Early English Texts. VIII. *Anglia*, xlv, 105-31 (Discusses, among other things, twenty-eight cruxes in *Beowulf*, including *ealu-scerwen*) IX, X. *Anglia*, xlvi, 63-96, 173-90 (Fifty-eight more passages)
- 1922 KLAEBER, F. Zum Bedeutungsinhalt gewisser altenglischer Wörter und ihrer Verwendung. *Anglia*, xlvi, 232-8
- 1922 LIEBERMANN, F. Zu Beowulf, v, 770. *Archiv*, cxliii, 247-8 (Interpretation of *ealu-scerwen*, parallels from Anglo-Saxon Law)
- 1922 THOMAS, P. G. Miscellaneous Notes. Beowulf, 1604-5, 2085-91. *M L R.* xvii, 63-4
- 1923 HOLTHAUSEN, F. Zum Beowulf. *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxiv, 89-90 (*ealu-scerwen*)
- 1923 PATZIG, H. Zum Beowulf-Text. *Anglia*, xlvii, 97-104
- 1923 SEDGEFIELD, W. J. Miscellaneous Notes. *M L R.* xviii, 471 (*Beowulf*, ll 223-4 *sund liden eoletes æt ende*)
- 1924 SCHLUTTER, O. B. Weitere Beiträge zur altenglischen Wortforschung. *Anglia*, xlviii, 375-7 (Discusses *hit*, *Beowulf*, 2650. See also E. V. Gordon, *Year's Work*, v, 76-7)
- 1924 SEWELL, W. A. P. A reading in Beowulf. *Times Lit Sup* Sept 11, 1924, 556 (*egsode Eorlas*, *Eorlas* being interpreted as the Herul)
- 1925 DUNSTAN, A. C. Beowulf, ll 223-4. *M L R.* xx, 317-18 (*sund liden eoletes æt ende*. See also E. V. Gordon, *Year's Work*, vi, 78)
- 1926 CRAWFORD, S. J. "Ealu-scerwen". *M L R.* xxi, 302-3. (See also Daunt, *Year's Work*, vii, 70)

- 1926 EMERSON, O F The punctuation of *Beowulf* and literary interpretation. *Mod Phil.* XXIII, 393-405 (See also Daunt, *Year's Work*, VII, 60-2)
- 1926 KLAEBER, F. *Beowulfiana*. *Angha*, I, 107-22, 195-224. (Textual notes on 108 problems. See also § 8, below)
- 1926 MACKIE, W S Notes on OE poetry. *Beowulf*, II 223-4. *M.L.R.* XXI, 301. (*Sound liden eoletes æt ende*)
- 1926 MALONE, KEMP A note on *Beowulf*, 1231. *M L N* XLI, 466-7 (See also Daunt, *Year's Work*, VII, 62)
- 1927 ADDY, S O The "stapol" in *Beowulf*. *Notes and Queries*, CLII, 363-5 (See also Daunt, *Year's Work*, VIII, 84)
- 1927 THOMAS, P G Further notes on *Beowulf*. *M L R* XXII, 70-3 (358-9, 804, 939, 970-2, 1231, 1537, 1798, 1880, 2394, 2691-2. See also Daunt, *Year's Work*, VIII, 83-4)
- 1927 WILLIAMS, R. A. *Beowulf*, II 1086-8. *M.L.R.* XXII, 310-13 (See also Daunt, *Year's Work*, VIII, 82-3)
- 1928 CRAWFORD, S J *Beowulf*, II 168-9. *M L R* XXII, 328 (Illustrated by a passage from Gregory's *Dialogues*)
- 1928 MALONE, KEMP The kenning in *Beowulf*, 2220. *J E G Ph* XXVII, 318-24 (*bu folc beorna*. See also Daunt, *Year's Work*, IX, 70)
- 1929 HOLTHAUSEN, F Zu *Beowulf*, 489 f und 5114 f. *Angha*, *Beiblatt*, XL, 90-1
- 1929 HOOPS, JOHANNES War *Beowulf* König von Danemark? *Britannica, Max Förster zum sechzigsten Geburtstage*, 26-30 (Suggests the emendation *scildwigan* for *scildingas* in l 3005)
- 1929 HOOPS, JOHANNES Altenglisch *geap*, *horngeap*, *sægeap*. *Engl Stud* LXIV, 201-11
- 1929 KLAEBER, F Altenglische wortkundliche Randglossen. *Angha*, *Beiblatt*, XL, 21-32
- 1929 MALONE, KEMP Notes on *Beowulf*. *Angha*, LIII, 335-6 (II 51, 106, 1026, 1142. Defending the reading *selerædenne*, on the analogy of *scyppen*, *sc[e]otenum*, *woroldrædenne*)
- 1929 MALONE, KEMP A note on *Beowulf*, 2034. *M L R* XXIV, 322-3.
- 1929 MOORE, SAMUEL Notes on *Beowulf*. *Studies in English Philology, a Miscellany in Honor of Frederick Klaeber*, ed by Kemp Malone and Martin B Ruud, 208-12 (II 1104-6, 2032-40, 2306-9, 3117-19)
- 1929 SCHUCKING, L L Noch einmal "enge ānpaðas, uncūð gelād". *Studies in English Philology, a Miscellany in Honor of Frederick Klaeber*, ed by Kemp Malone and Martin B Ruud, 213-16
- 1929 SCHUCKING, L L Sōna im *Beowulf*. *Britannica, Max Förster zum sechzigsten Geburtstage*, 85-8
- 1930 ASHDOWN, MARGARET *Beowulf*, I 1543. *M L R* XXV, 78 (*oferwearp*)
- 1930 BRYAN, W F *Ærgōd* in *Beowulf*, and other Old English compounds in *Ær Mod Phil* XXVIII, 157-61
- 1930 MALONE, KEMP A note on *Beowulf*, I 1376. *M L R* XXV, 191 (Defending the reading *felasinnigne*)
- 1930 MALONE, KEMP Three notes on *Beowulf* (II 303-6, 646-51, 1053-57). *J E G Ph* XXIX, 233-6
- 1930 MALONE, KEMP Notes on *Beowulf*, *Angha*, LIV, 1-7, 97-8 (3005 a reply to Hoops, defending the text, 3058-60, 3066-75, 2542-4)
- 1931 HENEL, H *Stānboga* im *Beowulf*. *Angha*, LV, 273-81
- 1931 IMELMANN, R *Beowulf*, 489. *Engl Stud*. LXV, 190-6. (Suggests reading *onsæl me to*)

§ 8. LITERARY HISTORY, DATE AND AUTHORSHIP BEOWULF IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY, ARCHEOLOGY, HEROIC LEGEND, MYTHOLOGY AND FOLKLORE

See also preceding sections.

As before, no attempt is made to enumerate allusions to *Beowulf*, still less to the isolated episodes of *Beowulf*. But there are two which, on account of their early date, should perhaps have been mentioned on p. 521 above. Weber, in his essay *On the Teutonic Romances*, in *Illustrations of Northern Antiquities*, Edinburgh, 1814, p. 7, footnote, writes:

"A long Anglo Saxon poem on the expedition of Regner Lodbrog is preserved in the Museum, the publication of which would be a very desirable object. Prof. Thorkeln had prepared a manuscript and translation for the press, and from his learning and zeal everything could be expected. But it is much to be feared, that, together with the other invaluable stores of his library, it was consumed during the bombardment of Copenhagen."

George Borrow, in *Tales of the Wild and Wonderful* (1825), gives a very free verse paraphrase of Saxo's version of the Offa story (*The Story of Uffon in The Lord of the Maelstrom*).

1909-12 GRÖNBECH, V. *Vor Folkeæt i Oldtiden*. København. Review. Ekwall, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxi, 1-9, where reference will be found to the other reviews.

1913 SEIFFERT, F. *Die Behandlung der Wörter mit auslautenden ursprünglich silbischen Liquiden oder Nasalen und mit Kontraktionsvokalen in der Genesis A und im Beowulf*. Dissertation. Halle.

1918 MONTELIUS, O. *Ynglingaätten*. *Nordisk Tidskrift*.

1919 EBERT, M. *Die Bootfahrt ins Jenseits*. *Præhistorische Zeitschrift*, xii, 179-96. (Important, though having no special reference to Scyld's voyage.)

1920 ARON, A. W. *Traces of Matriarchy in Germanic Hero Lore*. *University of Wisconsin Studies*, ix (pp. 46-51 deal with *Beowulf*).

1920 AURNER, N. S. *Hengest, a study in Early English hero legend*. *University of Iowa Studies*, ii, 1. Reviews Liebermann, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxv, 65-7; Heusler, *Afd A*, xlii, 180-1; Klaeber, *Archiv*, cxliv, 278.

1920 BJÖRKMAN, E. *Studien über die Eigennamen im Beowulf*. Reviews Neckel, *Archiv*, cxlviii, 156; Preusler, *Lit. Cbl.* lxxiii, 75; Binz, *Literaturblatt*, xlii, 173-4.

1920 HOLTHAUSEN, F. *Ein lappisches Barensohn-Märchen*. *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxi, 66-7.

1920 HUBBARD, F. G. *The plundering of the Hoard*. Review. Graves, *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, xx, 371.

1920 IMELMANN, R. *Forschungen zur altenglischen Poesie*. Berlin. Reviews Holthausen (*Studien zur altenglischen Dichtung*), *Anglia*, xlvi, 55-60; Heusler, *Afd A*, xli, 27-35 (esp. *Beowulf*, ll. 1409, 1931 etc.).

1920 LIEBERMANN, F. *Ort und Zeit der Beowulfdichtung*. *Nachrichten der königl. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, Phil.-Hist. Kl.* 255-76. Reviews Ekwall, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxiii, 67-9; Brandl, *Archiv*, cxli, 307.

1920 NECKEL, G. *Die Ueberlieferungen vom Gotte Balder dargestellt und vergleichend untersucht*. Dortmund. (Herebeald, Hæðcyn, Heremod.) Review. Krappe, *Liters.*, ii, 170-3.

1920 NECKEL, G. *Sigmunds Drachenkampf*. *Edda*, xiii, 112-40, 204-29.

1920 SCHUTTE, G. *Vidsid og Slægtssagnene om Hengest og Angantyr*. *Afd. n. F.* xxxvi, 1-32.



- 1921 CHAMBERS, R. W. *Beowulf* An Introduction to the study of the poem, with a discussion of the stories of Offa and Finn Cambridge. Reviews: Mawer, *M L R* xviii, 96-8, Wardale, *Year's Work*, II, 33-5, Gosse, *Sunday Times*, Sept 18, 1921, A. J. Robertson, *Year Book of the Viking Society*, 1921, 78-81, *Notes and Queries*, Sept 24, 1921, 259, *Observer*, Sept 25, 1921, *Times Lit Sup* Jan 12, 1922, 26, Patch, *M L N*, xxxvii, 418-27, Tupper, *J E G Ph* xxi, 680-4, Hulbert, *Mod Phil* xx, 436-7, Mennen, *Literary Review*, Jan 20, 1923, 394, Fehr, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxxiii, 121-6, Ekwall, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxxiii, 177-85, Jiriczek, *Die Neueren Sprachen*, xxxi, 412-18, Boer, *English Studies* (Amsterdam), v, 105-18, Ricci, *Nuovi Studi Medievali*, 1923
- 1921 EMERSON, O F Grendel's motive in attacking Heorot *M L R*, xvi, 113-19. (Christian element ) Review Brandl, *Archiv*, cxlv, 156
- 1921 GAIDÓS, HENRI Cúchulainn, Béowulf et Hercule Vingt-cinquième de l'école pratique des hautes études fasc 430 de la Bibliothèque Paris. (Gaidos points out once again the parallel between the *Feast of Brimir* and *Beowulf* This parallel seems to him so striking that he is surprised that it has not been noticed before It had, of course, been noted by Deutschbein, *Germanisch Romanische Monatschrift*, i, 103-19 (1909) That Gaidos should independently be struck by the resemblance is noteworthy, and goes to prove the similarity But this resemblance is very limited, as has been shown by Olson, *Mod Phil* xi, 407-27 (1914) Many a folk-tale gives parallels as close, or closer )
- 1921 HUBNER, G Das Problem des Flexionsschwundes im Angelsächsischen. *P B B* xlv, 85-102 (Bearing upon the date of *Beowulf* )
- 1921 LA COUR, V Lejrestudier Mundesmærkerne *Danske Studier*, 147-66 (Topography of Leire, especially as depicted in Ole Worm's *Monumenta Danica*, 1643 )
- 1921 LINDQVIST, S Ynglingaattens gravskick Fornvannen, 83-194 (pp 119-36 deal with the burial customs of *Beowulf* ) Die Begrabnissarten des Ynglingageschlechtes *Fornvannen*, 261-75 (A summary of the above )
- 1921 OLRYK, A Nogle Grundsaetninger for saagnforskning, efter forfatterens død udg af dansk folkemundesamling ved Hans Ellekilde København (See above, pp 419 etc ) Review Golther, *Literaturblatt*, xliii, 237-9
- 1921 PROHL, E Zur *Beowulf*-Chronologie ms Dissertation Rostock Summary, Rostock, 1922
- 1921 SCHREINER, K Die Sage von Hengest und Horsa *Eberings German Stud.* 12 Review Klaeber, *Archiv*, cxliv, 276-8
- 1922 BOER, R C Studier over Skjoldungedigtningen *Aarbøger for Nordisk Oldkyndighed og Historie*, iii, 12, 133-266 (See above, pp 424-30 )
- 1922 COOK, A S The possible begetter of the OE *Beowulf* and Widsith *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences*, xxv, 281-346 (A valuable summary of our knowledge of conditions in the Northumbria of Bede's day ) Reviews *Times Lit Sup* May 4, 1922, 294, McKillop, *J E G Ph* xxiii, 305-7, *Literary Review*, 1922, 744, Ekwall, *Anglia*, *Beiblatt*, xxxiv, 37-9, Fladdeck, *Engl Stud* lviii, 124-6, Liebermann, *Archiv*, cxliii, 281-2, Mansion, *Musée Belge*, xxvii, 55-6 (See above, p 489 )
- 1922 HERRMANN, P Erläuterungen zu den ersten neun Büchern der Dänischen Geschichte des Saxo Grammaticus Zweiter Teil Die Heldensagen des Saxo Leipzig (See especially pp 65-78, Humblus, Lotherus, Skoldus, 124-200, Frotho to Rolvo Krage, 296-309, Vermundus and Uffo, 412-67, Starkatherus, Ingellus, 243-5, Roricus A series of detailed studies, invaluable for the student, not only of Saxo, but of *Beowulf* also )
- 1922 KLAEBER, F Der Held *Beowulf* in deutscher Sagenüberlieferung? *Anglia*, xlv, 193-201.

- 1922 KNUDSEN, G. Udleyre. *Danske Studier*, 176-7. (Arguing that this is not to be identified with the historic Leire)
- 1922 MACKIN, W. S. The Fight at Finnsburg, ll. 35, 40. *M.L.R.* xvii, 288. (Reply to Sedgfield)
- 1922 MATTER, H. Englische Grundungssagen. *Anglistische Forschungen*, 58 (Discusses the identity of the two Hengests, p. 183) Review. Holt-hausen, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxv, 41.
- 1922 MEYER, W. Wealhpeow. *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxiii, 94-101
- 1922 PATZIG, H. Zur Episode von þrýð im Beowulf. *Anglia*, xlvii, 282-5.
- 1922 SCHÖDER, E. Die Leichenfeier für Attila. *ZfdA* lxx, 240-4 (For comment on this see Naumann, *Zeugnisse der antiken und frühmittelalterlichen Autoren*, in *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift*, xv, 279)
- 1923 BRATE Fitela. *Pipping's Studier i nordisk filologi*, xiv, 2
- 1923 COHN, M. Ist die Wortstellung ein brauchbares Kriterium für die Chronologie angelsächsischer Denkmäler? *Engl Stud* lvii, 321-9. (A reply to Hubener.)
- 1923 COOK, A. S. Theodebert of Austrasia. *J E G Ph* xxii, 424-7. (Argues for the usual dating of Hygelac's fall, c. 516. See above, pp. 381-7)
- 1923 HAGEN, S. N. Yrsa og Rolv Krake. *Danske Studier*, 180-2 (Etymologies and interpretations of the names)
- 1923 HEUSLER, A. Die altgermanische Dichtung. Walzel's *Handbuch der Literaturwissenschaft*. Berlin. Review Mogk, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxvii, 1-4
- 1923 LABORDE, E. D. Grendel's Glove and his immunity from weapons. *M L R* xviii, 202-4
- 1923 LINDQVIST, S. Hednatemplet i Uppsala. *Fornvannen*. (See esp pp. 110-12. comparison of the architecture of Heorot with that of Scandinavian wooden churches)
- 1923 MALONE, KEMP. The Literary History of Hamlet. I The Early Tradition. Heidelberg. *Anglistische Forschungen*, lxx (Detailed arguments as to the development of the legends of Onela and Hrothulf and their contemporaries. See above, pp. 445-9) Reviews. Briggs, *J E G Ph*, xxiv, 413-24 (a valuable summary), Andrews, *Philol Quart* iii, 318-20 (cf Malone, *Philol Quart* iv, 158-60), *Lit Cbl* lxxiv, 485
- 1923 SCHÜCKING, L. L. Die Beowulfdatierung. Eine Replik. *P.B.B.* xlvii, 293-311 (See above, pp. 397-8, 486-8)
- 1923 VON SYDOW, C. W. Beowulfskalden och nordisk tradition. *Yearbook of the New Society of Letters at Lund*, 77-91. Reviews Hecht, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxv, 218-19, Liebermann, *Archiv*, cxlviii, 95
- 1923 VON SYDOW, C. W. Beowulf och Bjarke. Helsingfors. *Studier i Nordisk Filologi*, xiv, 3. (Argues that the Grendel story is of Irish origin, and the Grettir episode derived, ultimately, from Beowulf, emphasizes the importance of a study of oral tradition) Reviews Kemp Malone, *J E G Ph* xxxii, 458-60, Holthausen, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxiv, 357-8, Hecht, Zu Holthausens Bericht über v. Sydow, Beowulf och Bjarke, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxv, 218-19, Heusler, *AfdA* xlviii, 52-4, Lohjgren, *Neophilologus*, x, 73-4.
- 1924 ANSCOMBE, A. Hama in Beowulf. *Notes and Queries*, cxlvi, 112-13
- 1924 COOK, A. S. The Old English *Andreas* and Bishop Acca of Hexham. *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences*, xxvi, 245-332. (*Andreas* and Beowulf)
- 1924 COOK, A. S. Beowulf, 1422. *M L N* xxxix, 77-82 (Suggests that *floð blöðe wól* is derived from Aldhelm's *fluenta cruenta*)
- 1924 FAHLBECK, P. Beowulfkvädet som källa för nordisk fornhistoria. *N. F. Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar*,

- xxxiii, 2 (See above, pp 401-8 This paper was read and privately circulated in 1913, but first published in 1924 )
- 1924 LA COUR, V. Lejrestudier. Navnet. *Danske Studier*, 13-22 (Instances of the name and its etymology. Cf A F Schmidt, *Lejrskov in Danske Studier*, 1926, 77-81 )
- 1924 MALONE, KEMP. King Aun in the Rök Inscription *M.L.N.* xxxix, 223-6
- 1924 VON SYDOW, C W. Hur mytforskningen tolkat Beowulfdikten *Folkminnen och Folktankar*, xi, 97-134
- 1924 VON SYDOW, C W. Scyld Scefig *Namn och Bygd*, xii, 63-95
- 1924 WESSÉN, E. Studier til Sveriges hedna mytologi och fornhistoria *Uppsala Universitets Årsskrift* Review Uhlenbeck, *Acta Philologica Scandinavica*, iii, 172-5
- 1924 WILLIAMS, R A. The Finn Episode in Beowulf. An Essay in Interpretation. Cambridge. Reviews Sedgfield, *M.L.R.* xx, 338-9, Blackman, *R.E.S.* i, 228-31, E V Gordon, *Year's Work*, v, 72-4, *Notes and Queries*, cxlix, 89, Kemp Malone, *J.E.G.Ph.* xxv, 174-17, Kläber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxvi, 5-9, Hecht, *Afd A* xlv, 121-5, Kindervater, *Lit. Cbl.* lxxvi, 1744, Fladueck, *Literaturblatt*, xlvii, 165-64, Schreuder, *Neophilologus*, xi, 294-7
- 1925 CHAMBERS, R W. Beowulf and the Heroic Age (Foreword to Sir Archibald Strong's translation, q v)
- 1925 COOK, A S. Aldhelm and the source of Beowulf, l 2523, Beowulf, ll. 169-63 *M.L.N.* xl, 137-42, 352-4 (*deorc deapscua . mistige mōras montes caliginosos . umbram mortis*)
- 1925 COOK, A S. Cynewulf's part in our Beowulf *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences*, xxvii, 385-406. Reviews S J Crawford, *M.L.R.* xxii, 94-6, Huotener, *Engl. Stud.* lxi, 290-2
- 1925 LAMB, E M. Hemming Beowulf Queries. *Notes and Queries*, cxlix, 243-4.
- 1925 LINQVIST, S. Vendelhjalmarnas ursprung, De koniska hjalmarna hos de utomnordiska folken under folkvandringstiden *Fornvannen*, 181-207, 227-40
- 1925 MALONE, KEMP. *Widsith* and the *Hervararsaga* *Pub. Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.* xl, 769-813
- 1925 MALONE, KEMP. King Alfred's *Geatas* *M.L.R.* xx, 1-11 (Argues that the overthrow of the Geatic kingdom led to a Geatic immigration into Jutland, and that this accounts for Alfred's terminology.) Review E V Gordon, *Year's Work*, vi, 77-8
- 1925 MUCH, R. *Widsith* Beiträge zu einem Commentar *Zfd A* lxii, 113-50 (See esp on Breca and Hœc)
- 1925 NERMAN, B. Det svenska rikets uppkomst. Stockholm. (See above, p 415) Most important
- 1925 FETERSEN, C. Germanische Heldendichtung in Schleswig-Holstein *Literar. Jahrbuch f. Schleswig-Holstein* (Offa, Finnsburg, Beowulf, Ingeld)
- 1925 POGATSOHER, A. Altenglisch Grendel *Neusprachliche Studien, Festgabe Karl Luick dargebracht (Die Neueren Sprachen, Beiheft 6, p 151)* (\**grandula*, connected with *gram*, wrathful)
- 1925 PONS, E. Le Thème et le Sentiment de la Nature dans la Poésie anglo-saxonne *Publications de l'Université de Strasbourg* London. Reviews Carleton Brown, *M.L.R.* xxi, 343-4, Batho, *R.E.S.* ii, 496-7, E V Gordon, *Year's Work*, vi, 70-2, Kemp Malone, *M.L.N.* xliii, 406-8, Kläber, *Anglia, Beiblatt*, xxxviii, 129-32, Brandl, *Archiv*, cli, 297, Legouis, *Revue Anglo-Américaine*, iii, 138-40, Vendryès, *Revue Celtique*, lxxii, 205-7, Mossé, *Langues Modernes*, xxiii, 568-71
- 1925 THOMAS, A. Un manuscrit inutilisé du "Liber Monstrorum" *Archivum Latinianum medii ævi (Bulletin Du Cange)*, i, 232-45

- 1925 TRNKA, B Dnešní stav badání o Beowulfovi (Present State of the Beowulf Problem) *Časopis pro moderní filologii*, xii, 35-48, 124-36, 247-54.
- 1925 WADSTEIN, E Beowulf, Etymologie und Sinn des Namens. *Germanica*, *Edward Sievers zum 75 Geburtstag*, 323-6 (Suggests connection with Low German *bui(e)* "astorm" "Beowulf" = Wind- or Storm-Wolf)
- 1925 WADSTEIN, E Norden och Vasteuropa i gammaltid Stockholm *Populärt vetenskapliga föreläsningar vid Göteborgs Högskola*, Ny foljd, xxii See above, pp 406-8 Review Uhlenbeck, *Acta Philologica Scandinavica*, ii, 287
- 1925 YNGLINGATAL Text, översättning och kommentar av Adolf Noreen Stockholm *Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien's Handlingar*, xxviii, 2 Review Neckel, *Litteris*, iii, 181-2
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